Sanskrit Academy Series - 109
In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

PANCHATANTRA

(The Five Tactics)

By

K Easwaran Kutty

Chief Editor

Prof K Neelakantham

Director



SANSKRIT ACADEMY
Adarsha Shodha Sanstha
(Recognised by Central Sanskrit University)
Osmania University, Hyderabad - 500 007

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

PANCHATANTRA

(The Five Tactics)

By

K Easwaran Kutty

Chief Editor

Prof K Neelakantham

Director

SANSKRIT ACADEMY

Adarsha Shodha Sanstha

(Recognised by Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi)

Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad – 500 007

2021

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Panchatantra

by K Easwaran Kutty

Publisher
Director, Sanskrit Academy

Copies can be had from:
Director
Sanskrit Academy
Adarsha Shodha Sanstha
Osmania University Campus,
Hyderabad – 500 007

Phone & Fax: 040 - 27070281
Email: sanskritacademyhyd@gmail.com
Web: sanskritacademy.net

ISBN – 978-93-80171-52-4

© Sanskrit Academy

Year : 2021
Copies : 200
Pages : x+162
Price : Rs 300
$ 30

Printed at Karshak Art Printers, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Foreword to the Second Edition

Panchatantra is world's unparalleled animal stories collection, and is one of India's most influential contributions to children's literature. There are several translations and retold tales of the original Sanskrit work into many languages across the world. Panchatantra, stands up to its very purpose in moulding a child's personality and equipping them acquire social skills with its animated, educative, captivating stories. A pandit named Vishnusharma was approached by a king who entrusts him the task of educating his three sons who in no way seem to be competent enough to succeed the throne. Panchtantra (Five Principles) is thus born for the teaching of the princes and to groom them for their future . It is just not the three little princes but children all over the world have had the privilege of learning through these fables. Panchtantra, the five treatises are namely Mitra Bheda- Losing friends, Mitra Labha-Winning of friends, Kakulokiya- On Crows and Owls, Labdhapranaasam- Loss of gains, Apariksitakaarakam- Ill- Considered Action

The collection of fables in the five sections touch every facet of life covering all topics like psychology, politics, administration, morals and music too. The values one should raise with are so elegantly demonstrated by various animal characters that talk like humans. These most entertaining and capturing animal stories demonstrate the virtues of helpfulness, loyalty, the ills of deception and caution us in choosing friends. They stress the necessities of acquiring social skills like team work and the strength of unity, the merriment and merits in socializing. They also give the assurances that smartness wins over brutal strength to those who are prone to surrender to bullies. No self help book helps in personality development than this work and in raising a healthy individual who is socially acceptable and morally upstanding. Panchtantra moulds children's psyche like a potterer at his wheel.

The Panchatantra work of Sri K.Easwaran Kutty outweighs many self help and personality development books in the book market. Hence, we at Sanskrit Academy have felt the need to bring out the second edition of it. We expect the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

present edition will receive a warm reception by both the children adults as well.

We are grateful to Prof. P. N. Shastry the Vice chancellor Central Sanskrit University (Formerly Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan) New Delhi and the Registrar Prof. Subrahmanya Sharma who have been encouraging us for publication of books on various disciplines in Sanskrit and also for propagation of Sanskrit by arranging online/half-line classes. We dearly think the help and encouragement of Prof. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University. I am very happy to say that the staff of our Academy putting tremendous efforts in strengthening the academy.

We offer our sincere thanks to Karshak Art Printers who printed this book within a short time.

Prof. K. Neelakantham

Director

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Foreword to the First Edition

We are happy to publish the English rendering of Panchtantra tales by Sri K.Easwaran Kutty - a veteran Scholar. We find hundreds of books on Panchatantra in all Indian languages and English. But, the present rendering is the exact mirror image of Sanskrit original story line. Therefore, this, I hope, will give the same experience to the readers, what they get while reading the original stories.

I express my thankfulness to Sri Easwaran Kutty for permitting us to publish the book. Due to several administrative reasons, we could not bring out the book in time. K.Easwaran Kutty born in the year 1929, belongs to an aristocratic family in Thrissur, Kerala, India. He took his Master Degree in Science from The Travancore University with Statistics as Major. He was employed with government of Kerala Bureau of Economics and Statistics and worked in various capacities at Kerala Veternary College, Kerala Forest Research Institute etc., and retired from service in the year 1984 as Additional Director.

Malayalam translation of Geethaanjaji by Rabindranath Tagore & Malayalam translation of Seven plays by Rabindranath Tagore are a few of the publication to his credit.

The present book "Panchatantra" is an English rendering of Panchatantra stories. This is unique become it follows the exact story line of original work in Sanskrit.

We are thankful to Dr.V.Sheeba, Sri Sivadasan, Dr.eeranarayana Pandurangi, Dr.V.Subrahmanyam and Prof.L.Jayarao for their valuable help.

Sri Sapan Khandelwal, literary circle, Jaipur has come foward to jointly publish this book. The academy is thankful to them.

We are thankful to the authorities of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan for their kind support.

Dr.Shrinvasa Varakhedi

Director

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

PANCHATANTRA
(The Five Tatics)

PREFACE

The tales from Panchatantra are narrated to the children in India from a hoary past. The author and date of this incomparable literary work are not known. It is believed that these stories were current in India for the past five millenniums. The Sanskrit word Panchatantra means the five fold tactics or policies. The stories are told under five captions, viz. (1) Mitrabhedam or Alienation of friends, (2) Mitrapraptikam or Winning of Friends, (3) Kakolukiyam or Crows and Owls, (4) Labdapranasam or Forfeiting the Gains and (5) Aparerkshitakarakam or Ill-considered Deed. The characters delineated in these stories include brahmin priest and barber, God and Demon, recluse and courtesan, lion and fox, ass and bull, crow and owl, frog, snake and crocodile. All the characters show human emotions and speak human language. It is no wonder that children and even adults of all times and countries take absorbing interest in these stories.

The story behind these stories is equally charming and instructive.In the southern parts of the country a city called Mahilaropya was ruled by a powerful sovereign named Amarasakti (Immortal Power). He had three sons with names Vasusakti, Ugrasakthi and Anekasakti. The king was very much dejected because the princes were hostile to education. He asked his counsellors for advice regarding their education and training for making them fit to succeed him to the throne. All the ministers failed to chalk out a feasible solution to the king's dilemma. Then one in his council suggested the name of Vishnusarman, with a reputation for his knowledge in numerous sciences and competence in teaching and the princes could be entrusted to him.

The king summoned Vishnusarman and said, "Holy Sir, you should do me a favour by making the princes experts

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
in the art of practical living. In return I shall bestow on you invaluable gifts." The incomparable teacher Vishnusarman said, "I am not one to sell good learning for any material gifts. But if I do not, in six months time, make the boys well acquainted with the art of intelligent living, I shall relinquish my good name as a teacher." The king agreed and sent his sons to live in the house of the teacher. Vishnusarman narrated to the princes a large number of stories arranged in five sections of the Panchatantra. They heard and learnt by heart the absorbing stories told by Vishnusarman. In six months time the princes were made adept in the art of intelligent living and fit for the throne of their father.

The chief actors in Panchatantra are the animals and birds who have human face and behavior. The semi-idiotic King Lion may look like a member of the ruling elite; the jackal has the face of a sly and self-seeking political adviser. The message of this old Sanskrit work is both ancient and modern. The passage of time has not diminished its relevance. There is the story of the two-headed bird in which it brings about self-destruction owing to conflicts between the heads. This reminds one of the tragic end on surgical separation of the Siamese twin sisters from Iran recently reported because of disagreement between them. In one of the tales Panchatanta has depicted a treasure-hunter in his insatiable greed for riches ends up standing in a lonely dreary place under the hot sun, thirsty and hungry, bleeding and whinning under great pains, for how long nobody knows, with a thorny wheel rotating fast on his crown. This seems to be prophetic of the man of this day with the thorny crown of 'Economic Meltdown' brought about by his unquenchable thirst for amassing mountains of wealth by means, fair or fowl.

When I first conceived of rendering into English language these wonderful tales in Panchatantra I wanted only to narrate them to dear Soorya, my African grand-

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

daughter. But on completion of the exercise I realized that these immortal stories could be enjoyed by a wider English-reading public of story-lovers.

Thus a private communication had to become a public document.

The task of bringing out in print this Panchatantra Retold from the original Sanskrit was undertaken as a labour of affection by Sri. K. Sivadas, my sister's son. It was his untiring interest and efforts that made this publication possible. My blessings are always with him.

The late Sri. Sudheer and his dear wife Ms. Sheeba Sudheer also contributed to supplement the efforts of Sri. Sivadas in this task. My sincere thanks are extended to them.

My Sincere thanks also to Dr. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Director, (Recipient of President's Award)Sanskrit Academy Osmania University without whose help and guidance the publishing of this book would not have been possible.

The fine illustrations that adorn this publication are the work of Artist Krishna warrier. I pray that Goddess of Arts to shower her blessings on him.

This bouquet woven out of the ancient folk tales from the ever-living work Panchatantra I offer with devotion at the holy lotus feet of Goddess Saraswathi the deity of letters.

K.EASWARAN KUTTY
Krishnapriya Warriem
Pazhuvil, Thrissur

Place : Kerala
India

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

CONTENTS

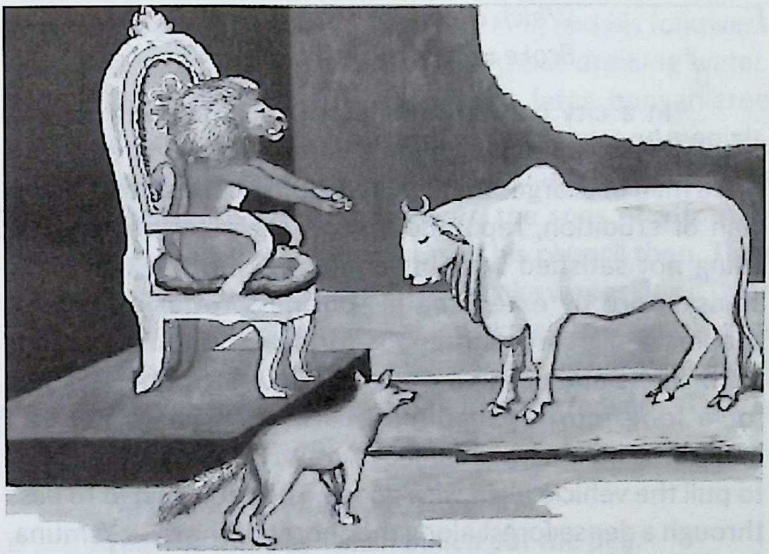
TACTICS-1	MITRABHEDAM (Breaking up Friendship)	1
TACTICS-2	WINNING FRIENDS	53
TACTICS-3	THE CROW AND THE OWL	74
TACTICS-4	FORFEITING GAINS	103
TACTICS-5	ILL-CONSIDERED DEED	134

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

FIRST TACTICS

MITRABHEDAM



Forest King Lion extends hand of Friendship and protection to the Bull

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

PANCHATANTRA
(The Five Tactics)

TACTICS 1: MITRABHEDAM
(Breaking up Friendship)

The first verse in the first tactics called Mitrabheda or breaking up of Friendship is

Friendship grew fast
Between lion and bull
Which a low-born fox
Broke up by craft

In a city named Mahilaropya in the south of the country lived a merchant named Vardhamana (Increase). He was a man of a large wealth and the public considered him a man of erudition, reputation, good character and charity. Being not satisfied with his opulent riches, he wished to amass more by extending his business to far off places. Loading a big cart with goods for sale, he took blessings from elders and observing all auspicious signs, he set forth for a long journey leading a caravan. Two strong and handsome bulls named Sanjeevaka and Nandaka were yoked to pull the vehicle filled with goods. The caravan had to pass through a dense forest along the shores of the river Yamuna. As the animals were pulling the heavy load, one leg of Sanjeevaka sank into the coastal marsh and got broken. The bull could not move his legs even an inch. The forest was infested with ferocious wild animals. Finding that it was no safe place to stay long, the troupe moved on, leaving the injured Sanjeevaka to fend for himself.

The injured bull was destined to live longer. So he did not die. The damp breeze coming from the river slowly revived his spirit. He dragged himself to the bank where he ate plenty of fresh green grass. In a few days he became healthy and

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
strong. He rambled in the forest bellowing loudly and upturning hillocks with sharp horns. The saying is,

God protects the helpless
But the well protected succumbs
If the Almighty wills otherwise

In the forest there lived the lion king Pingalaka. One afternoon he came to Yamuna to drink water from the river. As the royal procession was descending to the waters, the majestic and terrifying sound from Sanjeevaka came from afar reverberating all the forests. The king and his followers trembled with fear. They came up without drinking water. Pingalaka stood under the shade of a large banyan tree attended by bodyguards, ministers, high officials and menials. A little away from this group stood two young jackals, Karataka and Damanka. These brothers were the sons of a former minister to the king, not members of his council then. They were whispering to each other. Damanaka was asking, "Dear Karataka, did you observe that our king stopped all of a sudden and without quenching thirst came up onto the shore and now he appears perplexed?" Karataka replied, "That is none of our affair. Haven't you heard,

Meddlesome ones come to grief
Like the monkey which pulled out the peg.
Damanaka queried, "How was that?"

The other replied.

Tale 1 THE MEDDLESOME MONKEY

A temple was being built on the precincts of a town. Some labourers had been sawing a log for use in temple construction. A wooden peg was kept fixed in between the two halves of the log. It was noon time. The workers had gone to the town for lunch. A group of monkeys came jumping to the place. They started hopping and dancing on the roof

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

of the temple and on nearby trees. One young mischief monger among them vaulted on and sat on the half sawn log. With great effort he pulled out the peg and cast it into the air. With the peg off, the two halves of the log came banging and crushed his hanging testicles. One can imagine the painful end of the poor soul.

Karataka tried to dissuade his brother from approaching the king on matters of little concern to them. Damanaka refuted the arguments of his brother. He said that this was the most opportune moment to allay the king's fears and win his confidence. He would make use of this opportunity to get entry into the inner council of administration. After getting nod from his brother Damanaka approached Pingalaka. Seeing the son of his former minister coming, the king gave orders to admit the fox to his presence. The king welcomed the fox cordially. Damanaka saluted his master with great reverence and showered encomium on him. Thus taking the first right step, the cunning fox said, "My lord, with your kind permission, I would like to speak to you some confidential matters. I wish that master alone hears what I have to say". At Pingalaka's signal the other attendants moved out, the fox was left alone with the king. Damanaka said "Your majesty along with entourage went near the waters to take a drink. Then why did you come off without quenching thirst?" "Oh nothing!" replied the lion with a wry smile. But when the sly fox repeated the question with all seeming humility, the king of the jungles said candidly, "Damanaka, don't you hear a horrible sound from afar. Some strange animal has come to our kingdom. His appearance and strength must be as terrifying as the sound he makes." In order to assuage his master's fears the fox remarked, "My lord, why is this fear at a mere sound. A king gets name and fame only when he faces squarely the foe and fights with courage. First one should investigate the source of the sound before taking appropriate action. Haven't you heard, thought

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
that within the wooden barrel, sealed with skin, there was plenty of fat and marrow. But when I entered into it after breaking open the skin, I realized my foolishness". The king asked, "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 2 EMPTY DRUM MAKES BIG SOUND

A hungry fox was wandering about when he came to a deserted war front. He happened to hear strange noises in the place. He shuddered with fear and was about to flee. But on second thoughts, he decided to investigate the truth about the noise before taking to heels. He slowly approached the place from where the awesome sound came. He came upon a creature covered with skin on both sides. It had the shape of a drum and grass stalks which were wafting in wind and striking on both sides were making the sound. Now hunger returned to the jackal. He thought that there might be plenty of meat and marrow inside the creature. He tore the skin covering and entered into it but to his dismay he could find only empty space with no meat inside. Then he realized that it was only a war drum abandoned by the army when fighting ended. The fox laughed to himself at his own stupidity in entertaining unfounded fear.

Damanaka continued, "Master, don't be scared at a mere sound". The lion said, "Not only we but all our followers are ready to run. How can we alone remain without fear?" The fox said "Lord, do not loose heart. If you permit, I shall go and find out the truth and then report to you". On the strength of a royal fiat, Damanaka went off to the place from which the bellows came".

The lion did not have full faith in his emissary. He shifted to a vantage place from where he could observe the fox's movements. From a distance the clever jackal noted

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

with joy that it was only a bull who was making the big noise. He began to cogitate, "So far so good. I can now utilize all the policy options of statecraft like war and peace and others and make the king a tool in my hand." Damanaka approached the lion who questioned him on his mission. He replied: "Lord, the creature who is making the loud noise is very strong and we are mere weaklings before him. But I shall make use of my shrewdness to help you to make friends with him". The lion said, "Friend, please help me to overcome the present predicament. From now on, I appoint you as my chief minister and counsellor".

Damanaka left the king and came to the bull and chided him for making clamorous noises and disturbing Pingalaka, the lion king of the forests. "The king has sent for your immediate presence before him". Sanjeevaka thought that he was finished forever and shook with fear at the lion's anger. He requested the fox to intercede with the king on his behalf and make him bestow his benign hands for his protection. After accepting Sanjeevaka's request, the jackal returned to Pingalaka and said, "Your majesty, I have discovered the source of the deafening sound. He is not a crude creature. What we hear are the roaring noise of the divine bullock, the vehicle of the great God of the three worlds. The supreme Godhead, Parameswara has ordained him to graze on the lush greens on the shores of river Yamuna "The king of the forest closed his eyes in reverence at the mention of the God's name and saluted the Overlord of the cosmos. He said, "True, I am sure that without the grace of the God, no ordinary grass eater would dare to ramble in the forest infested with cruel animals without fear. Now Damanaka said "Your majesty, I told the bull that the lord of the forest is the lion Pingalaka who is the vehicle of the supreme Goddess. So, if he wishes, he can live here as an honoured guest of the lion king and this has been agreed

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
to by the bull". The king said, "You have done a great service to me. I shall bestow protection on him under our royal umbrella. Tell the divine bullock to become our friend. Now you go and lead him to our presence". .

The Jackal once more approached Sanjeevaka and said, "Friend, I have prevailed upon the king to guarantee protection to your life as long as you remain his companion. But, mind you, don't show airs and think that you are too important to usurp others' rights. We both shall consult each other in conducting the affairs of state. In a king's household all sorts of people, good and bad, high and low have their appointed status. Every one of them should be given his due. Otherwise one is apt to suffer like the gentleman Dandila.

Sanjeevaka queried, "How was that" the other replied.

Tale 3 MEANNESS PAYS AT TIMES

The merchant Dandila was the chief of the city Vardhamana. He was liked both by the king and the citizens. He performed well his duties to the king as well as to the people. He treated one and all with humbleness and kindness. He enjoyed full freedom to go anywhere in the palace. The marriage of Dandila took place with pomp and festivities. The king and the members of royal household were special invitees for the reception held after the wedding. They were honoured with feasts and rich gifts. Now, Gorambha, the palace sweeper was seen occupying a seat not deserving his status. He was shown the way out of doors without ado. The disgraced Gorambha felt his pride wounded and he vowed revenge. At home he lost appetite for food and spent sleepless nights. He was seeking a fit opportunity to wreak vengeance on Dandila.

One early morning Gorambha was sweeping the king's bed chamber when the king was still in his bed. He said to

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

himself a little loudly. "Oh shame! this Dandila was seen embracing the queen! What an outrage!" On hearing these words, the king woke up and with anger asked the sweeper. "Hey Gorambha, what are you blabbering. Did you actually see Dandila hugging our queen?" The sweeper replied in a faltering tone, "My lord! please excuse me. I was engaged in gambling the whole previous night and had little sleep. I was very sleepy now and don't remember what I was talking". The king got irritated at the merchant's indecorum. He sat lost in thoughts. "There must be some truth in what this fool was muttering. There can't be any smoke without fire". The king gave strict orders curtailing freedom of movement of Dandila inside the palace.

Then one day the merchant was stopped at the palace gates by the sentry. Dandila was shocked at this unexpected incident and threatened to report the matter to the king. Then he noticed Gorambha standing there and laughing at him and offering derisive comments at his fall from the king's favour. The merchant went back home abashed. On the way he pondered, "This mean insect Gorambha must be the mischief monger behind my disgrace at the palace gates. I shall make amends for this in order to regain the king's favour". In the evening he invited the sweeper to his house and showered rich gifts on him. Gorambha was pleased. He promised the merchant to do his best in order to show his gratitude to Dandila for the gifts and restore his status in the palace.

Another day early morning Gorambha was as usual sweeping the floor near the king's cot. He spoke for the king to hear. "This king is a blockhead to eat cucumber at his stools". The king got angry at this atrocious blabbering of this base fellow. He shouted, "You idiot, did you ever see me eating cucumber when I am at the toilet. I will hang you for this nonsense". The sweeper appeared to tremble with fear.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
He said, "Your majesty, this slave of yours is very sorry and craves for pardon. I spent a sleepless night yesterday engaged in gambling. I don't remember what I talked incoherently". The king now realized how foolish he was in treating a noble gentleman like Dandila so badly putting all faith in the words of this insect. In the absence of his trusted counselor the affairs of the city and the state suffered. The king issued immediate orders to reinstate Dandila to his former status and privileges.

The bull Sanjeevaka assured that he would abide by the advice rendered by the fox. They went to the audience of the lion king. Damanaka introduced the bull with proper decorum and Pingalaka accorded him a warm welcome by placing the royal hand on the bull's hump. The bull bowed before the king and stood in all reverence. The lion took his new chum into confidence and assured him protection and patronage. The bull was free to roam about in the forest without fear of harm from cruel inhabitants there. Pingalaka entrusted all responsibilities of administration to his ministers. The new friends, the lion and the bull then retired to a quiet place in the interior of the forests. There the two led a peaceful life sustaining on the cool waters of river Yamuna and the green grass on the shores. In leisure hours they narrated stories and discussed religious matters. In no time Pingalaka shed his ferocity and became kindly and tame like his new friend the grass eater. Their friendship exceeded all permissible limits. The king refused audience even to his ministers. The lion desisted from hunting animals for his own sake or for providing a living to his dependents. In disgust and pinched by hunger, many of his followers left Pingalaka and sought other masters.

The ministers Damanaka and Karataka became very unhappy at this unexpected turn of events. Damanaka said "Dear brother, our king is following a way of life unbecoming

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

of his status and responsibilities. Our importance here has been eroded. Because of this strange and unnatural association with this grass eater, the king has forgotten his royal duties. We are starving for want of royal patronage. What is to be done?" Karataka replied: "You yourself are responsible for bolstering this unnatural association between the two born enemies. Now it is your look out as to how to end the present situation. Haven't you heard this.

The fox by uninvited interference in the fight of rams lost his life. I, Devasharma had to suffer at the hands of Ashadaboothy; the woman courier lost her limbs for meddling in others' affairs. Everything is one's own making.

Damanaka asked, "How was that? The other replied.

Tale 4 DESTINY IS ONE'S OWN MAKING

A holy man named Devasharma lived in a hermitage in a lonely place Devotees offered him ample gifts. He sold these gifts for money and became rich. He kept the money in a pouch and held it always under his armpit lest someone should snatch it away.

Money is hard to earn
Harder still to keep
Grief in earning
Grief in spending
Fie this dependence on money

Now an evil person, Ashadaboothi wanted to rob the good mannered Devasharma of his wealth. The sinister Ashadaboothi knew very well that he could not enter the hermitage at night because of the high walls and strong gate. The only way to execute his designs was to gain the confidence of the ascetic somehow. So one morning he came to the holy man and bowing at his feet talked about the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

fleeting nature of material pleasures. He said that he was fed up with this earthly life. He prayed that he may be given initiation as a humble disciple of Devasharma and imparted instructions on spiritual matters. Impressed by his humility and his disinterestedness at so young an age in worldly pleasures, Devasharma agreed to take him as a disciple on condition that he would spend the nights outside the hermitage. During daytime Ashadaboothi spent time in the services of his master and at nights he stayed outside. In a few months the evil genius succeeded in gaining full faith of his teacher; but his mind was ever planning to rob him of the treasure.

One day the son of a former disciple of Devasharma came to invite him for a sacred ceremony in his house. The recluse accepted the invitation. Accompanied by Ashadaboothi, the teacher set out on his journey. On the way the two reached the banks of a river. Now hiding his purse on the river bank, he asked his confidant disciple to keep a vigilant watch of the money bag and wait there till he came back after ablution in the river. But as soon as the teacher disappeared from sight the wicked Ashadaboothi took the bag and ran away. Devasharma, as he sat for defecation on the sands, saw a strange sight of two strong rams engaged in a fierce duel. The animals drew backwards to a distance and then came rushing to butt each other with force. This action was done repeatedly and blood ran down from their heads and fell on the earth. A greedy fox now came on the scene. The jackal could not resist the sight of blood on the floor and his mouth watered with longing to taste it. When the rams moved backwards for their next encounter, the fox came to lick the blood with voracious appetite. He failed to notice the onrush of the animals for their next butting. So when their heads crashed against each other the fox was crushed to death.

In public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Devasharma was moved by the tragic end of the fox and he was all the time pondering over it. He did his washing and bathing quite mechanically. But when he reached the place where he left his money bag, he was stunned to realize that his dear disciple had disappeared with the prize. He fell down unconscious. After recovering from his swoon, Devasharma continued his journey brooding over the lost money. By sunset he reached a village when he saw a weaver and his wife coming towards him. The two were proceeding to the town for a booze. Devasharma addressing them said, "Friend, I have come to you as a guest for the night and I have no acquaintance here. Please give me food and a place for rest". The weaver said to his wife, "Dear, do entertain the honoured guest in our house. When I come back from the town, I shall bring you a good supply of drinks!

Now the weaver woman was of a loose character. On her way home she was engaged in lustful thoughts about her lover Devadutha. So when she reached home along with the guest, she treated him very indifferently. No food was served to him. She just indicated the place where he could sleep for the night. She straight away went in and began to dress up in all her fineries eager to go out for a clandestine meeting with her paramour who had just arrived in the village. Then she stepped out of the house and she was dismayed to see her husband coming towards her. He was fully drunk and was walking with unsteady steps holding a bottle close to chest. Immediately the lady turned back and entering the house began to undo her make up. The weaver had noticed her strange behaviour. He already had suspicion about her love affairs. He started to abuse her at the top of his voice. "You slut, I had heard about your evil ways even before. Now I am convinced that you were on your way to meet your secret lover". He spanked her right and left and then tied her to a

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

pillar. Being fully drunk, he lay down and immediately started snoring.

In the meantime, the barber's spouse who was a bosom friend of the weaver woman came there. After making sure that the weaver was sound asleep, she addressed her friend, "Dear, your paramour Devadutha is waiting for you. Go out to him and have a pleasant time". Now observing her friend tied to the pillar, the barber's wife set her free saying, "I shall stand here tied to the post in your place till you come back. This drunkard won't stir till the sunrays fall on his buttocks".

Sometime after his wife had gone, the weaver stirred up and in a sleepy voice said, "You hussy, you shrill voiced shrew, promise me that you won't continue your wicked ways and then I shall set you free. Afraid that her voice might betray her, the barber woman did not open her mouth. Even after repeated warnings by the weaver the courier lady did not utter a single word. He got angry beyond control at her silence. He got up and taking a sharp knife cut off her nose. In the pitch darkness he could not recognize the woman whom he had deformed. Still under the influence of alcohol he continued his half broken sleep.

The weaver woman soon came back after her clandestine love affair and said, "Friend, are you okay? I hope that this rascal did not wake up after I had gone". The courier lady said, "All my limbs except nose are in fine shape. Now please untie me and I shall return home before your husband wakes up". Sometime after the exit of the barber woman, the weaver woke up and said to his wife, "You bitch, why do you still keep your tongue tied. I am going to cut your ears too". She retorted rebuking him, "Who on earth can dishonour or deform a lady with unblemished character and conduct. I call upon all gods to be my witness. The sun and moon, air

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
and fire, heaven and earth, dawn and dusk are the watchers of human works. Therefore, oh gods, you who know about my unblemished love and devotion to my wedded lord, please restore my cut nose. If on the other hand, I ever have entertained unbecoming thoughts, let my body be turned to ashes." She continued to berate her husband severely, "You evil incarnate, look at my face. My nose has now become whole". The weaver took out a flaming torch and raised it to see her face. He could hardly believe his eyes. He saw his wife standing tied to the post having full nose with a pool of blood on the floor. He unfastened her and appeased her with acts of love. Devasharma who had been smarting under the loss of his money and pinched by hunger was spending sleepless hours. He was watching with curiosity the interesting scene unfolding before him. He exclaimed to himself, "See the dexterity of woman to turn truth into falsehood and untruth into truth!"

The barber woman entered her house covering her wounded nose with a cloth. All the while she was pondering as how to face her husband and explain the deformity she was having. She too was spending a sleepless night because of her mental agitations and the pain from the cut nose. Now before dawn the barber returned to his house after doing service in the king's palace. It was time for him to go to the village households for work. So from the entrance itself he shouted, "Dear wife, please bring all my shaving equipments immediately. I am in a hurry to go to the village." The ready witted lady thought of a plan to hoodwink her man. She threw out the shaving knife to him. On seeing that knife alone had come out, he lost temper and threw back the sharp razor at her. Out jumped the barber's spouse with raised hands and loud laments. 'Aye, Aye this base fellow is trying to kill me. This scoundrel has cut the nose of a devoted wife for no fault. Oh, help, help". The policemen on night rounds, on

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
hearing the cry for help came rushing to the house. On complaints from the woman, they beat up the barber, handcuffed him and presented him before the judges. The police charged the poor barber with unabashed atrocity towards an innocent lady. The law officers asked him the reasons for such cruel treatment of his wife. They asked him whether the woman had committed adultery or theft. Reeling under pain from the police beating and stunned by the unexpected accusations by his own wife, the barber could not utter a word in self defence. The judges were convinced that the barber had done atrocities he had been charged with. They sentenced him to capital punishment.

When the barber was being taken to the gallows, Devasharma saw him. He certainly knew that this was an unjust punishment of an innocent man. He approached the judges and gave them a detailed account of the incidents for which he was a direct witness. Now the judges were satisfied with the veracity of his story and the innocence of the barber. They rescinded their earlier orders and set the barber free.

They ordered to cut off the barber-woman's ears for making false accusations against her husband.

Karataka asked, "How could the wicked Ashadaboothi deceive the innocent and good Devasharma?" Damanaka replied: "If fraud is executed deftly, not even Brahma, the creator can detect it. A weaver disguised as Vishnu, the sustainer Godhead espoused the princess".

To Karataka's query "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 5 DEFT DECEPTION

A weaver and a carpenter were intimate companions from their early days. Once they were walking hand in hand among the musicians, dancers and other performing artists

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

who had gathered to take part in a temple festival. Presently they witnessed a gorgeous procession of attendants and eunuchs accompanying a charming princess seated on a caparisoned elephant. The princess was on her way for the worship of the temple deity. The moment he saw the beautiful princess, the weaver was pierced by the arrows of Cupid and he fell down unconscious. His friend with the help of relatives carried him to his house. There cold water was sprinkled on his face, medicines applied and gods propitiated for his recovery. After much effort the weaver revived. To his friend's queries regarding the reasons of swooning the weaver said, "I am very desperate and there seems to be no remedy for my grief. I request you to make a funeral pyre for my self-immolation". On further questioning, the weaver revealed that he had fallen in love at first sight with the princess. He said, "Now it is your duty as my chum to arrange for my secret meeting with the princess immediately. If this is not done, you will not find me alive for another moment". The carpenter thought for a while and then detailed his plans to fulfill his friend's fancies. He said that he would make a wooden bird resembling Garuda, Vishnu's bird vehicle with a machine concealed inside in order to make it fly. Two additional artificial hands would be fitted to the weaver's body to make him four—handed like the Supreme Lord. He would be adorned with all the ornaments like those of Vishnu and would also be provided with weapons like the mace, discuss and conch. With a lotus flower also in his hand the weaver resembling the Overlord of the three worlds would mount on the Garuda made of wood and fly at night to the princess's chamber.

The king's palace was bathed in milky white moon light. The princess was seated alone on the balcony dressed in all fineries. It was almost midnight. Looking up she witnessed a strange sight of a bird flying towards her room.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
In a short time, the weaver disguised as Vishnu alighted on the terrace and walked towards her. The princess was surprised when the great Lord addressed her, "Oh, beautiful lady are you dreaming or awake? I am God Vishnu coming from the Milky Ocean leaving my consort Lekshmi to woo you. Please accept me as your husband". The shy princess with eyes cast down and drawing pictures on the floor with her leg nail said, "Lord I am only an ordinary mortal and don't deserve to become your spouse. Moreover I am not a free maiden. You have to seek my father's permission to wed me". The weaver-Vishnu said, "You were Radha of Vrindavan in your former birth and my consort when I incarnated on earth as Krishna. There is nothing wrong in your becoming my wife without taking consent from anybody. Now if you don't agree to my offer, I will curse you and all your family". The princess remained silent with fear and diffidence. The weaver took her hand in his and led her to the bed chamber. Early before it was dawn, he, leaving her, departed seated on the bird machine. This practice of coming at night and leaving before dawn by the weaver Vishnu continued day after day.

Nobody in the King's palace was a witness to this love affair. But the princess' maids noticed signs of the visit of a paramour to her on her limbs. They could not believe that somebody could visit her in the well- guarded bed chamber. The maids, however, reported their misgivings to the queen mother who went to her daughter and chided her. She said, "Dear, what is the meaning of this? Does some lover come to you at night unnoticed by any and he has married you in secrecy? Do you wish to bring dishonour to your father, the king?" The princess could not evade an answer. She said, "Dear Ma, it is true that Lord Vishnu comes to my chamber every night and has taken me as his spouse". The queen was very delighted and conveyed the news to her husband. The same night the royal couple stood watching

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

outside their daughter's bed chamber. By midnight they witnessed Vishnu coming on his Garuda and alighting on the balcony and entering their daughter's room. The parents were very happy that the supreme Godhead had become their son-in-law. The king now felt that he had become invincible and that he would be able to defeat the neighbouring kings.

With vanity clouding discrimination the king started to taunt and prick his adjacent kingdoms for no reason. They, on their part, held mutual consultations and decided to give a fitting retort to him. With a huge army they surrounded his kingdom and started to sow destruction. The king could not withstand the enemies. He sought help from the weaver disguised as Vishnu through his daughter. That night the princess with tear filled eyes said, "Dear Lord, my father's enemies have started to march against him. It does not look nice that he is defeated when the supreme Godhead is his son-in-law. Please destroy his foes and save my father and his subjects from annihilation". The masqueraded Vishnu said, "My love, do not worry over such a silly matter. For the sake of your love, I shall engage the enemy and decimate him with my infallible wheel. The next morning the neighbours led a huge army and encircled the palace and threatened to capture the king dead or alive. A weeping princess fell at the holy feet of her lord and prayed him to extend help to her father. The weaver thought, "If I don't help, the king is sure to be killed or dethroned. If this happens I am sure to lose the princess". He said, "Dear, I shall appear in the skies on my Garuda with upraised weapons and on seeing me the enemy is certain to flee". Soon people could see the weaver disguised as Lord Vishnu mounted on Garuda above their heads.

The scene now shifts to the real Milky Ocean where the true God Vishnu, served by Goddesses Lekshmi and goddess Earth was resting on the serpent bed, desired the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
presence of the real Garuda. His bird vehicle instantly stood before his master with folded palms. The Lord said "My dear Garuda, are you not aware that a weaver has assumed my form and goes to the princess' chamber every night mounted on his mechanical Garuda. And now you can see him on his vehicle over a huge enemy army ready to fight for the princess' father. He and his Garuda are certain to be downed by the sharp shafts of the enemy. This will bring disgrace to our divinity and people will no more worship us. Therefore in order to avoid this calamity, it is essential that you impart your full strength to the weaver's machine. I shall grant my strength to the weaver in order to make him invincible". The Lord and his Garuda acted thus, and the weaver felt that he had become much stronger than before. He fought valiantly and hurled his disc weapon at the enemy force and massacred the entire enemy camp. The princess' father came out victorious.

The people witnessed the Lord coming down on his Garuda and his holy feet touching the ground. They now recognized that it was the weaver who had been disguising as Vishnu. Since he saved his king and the people from the enemies, they greeted him with enthusiasm. The weaver gave a detailed narration of his adventures. The king pardoned him and showed his gratitude by giving his daughter in marriage to him and made him the heir to his throne.

Karataka wished to know what his brother intended to do now. Damanaka said, "Brother, I can suggest a way out. We should make all efforts to distance our king and the bull and break the friendship". But Karataka disagreed with this view because it won't be easy to achieve. Damanaka said, "One should use brain power rather than muscle power to work out one's design". Haven't you heard.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

What muscle power can't do
Brain power can achieve
The crow caused cobra's death
With the help of princess' ornaments.

Karataka asked, "How was that?" Damanaka replied.

Tale 6 BRAINY FOX

A crow couple had their nest on a banyan tree. A black cobra also dwelt in a cavity of the same tree. When the parent crows had gone out in search of food, the vile cobra climbed up and devoured the infant birdlings. The parents returned in the evening to find that their young ones had disappeared. They came to know that the cobra had killed them. Unable to think of a way to save their babies from the serpent, they went to seek the advice of their fox friend. The wise fox said, "We have to employ tricks to defeat the enemy when weapons are of no avail. Haven't you heard

A gluttonous crane killed
Many fishes large and small
A quick-witted small crab
Took life breath out of him.
The crows asked, "How was that?" The fox said

Tale 7 READY-WIT CRAB

Many water creatures like fish, crab, tortoise and others resided in a large lake. An artful crane used to live on these. But now he had become too old and weak to catch prey. One day the crane was standing on the banks of the lake looking sad and shedding tears. A crab approached him and said "Uncle, why do you stand here mournfully shedding tears? What is afflicting you?" The crane

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
replied, "Son, I have lost all interest in this life of sin killing creatures for selfish ends. I have decided to starve till death" The crab asked. "Why sir, are you fed up with life?" The crane said, "Once in every twelve years there comes a season of severe drought. I have heard the astrologers predict that a rainless year is imminent. Then our entire lake would dry up destroying all life here. I am weeping for my ill fated friends in the lake who would not survive this drought. The creatures from the nearby waters are moving to safer places. Our friends are not aware of the impending catastrophe." Listening to these gloomy words of foredoom all the creatures quivered with despair. The crab asked, "Uncle, is there no way to escape for us?" The crane allaying his fears said, "Yes son, there is a big lake full of water abounding in sweet smelling lotus flower which will not dry up even if rain fails for several years. If you are all willing, I shall transport you all one by one on my back to that lake. "Putting full faith on this cheat, they all shouted in one voice, 'me first, me first". The wicked crane carried the fishes one at a time. This continued for days without hitch. Now the crab feeling impatient prayed to the crane to lift him next. The crane who also wanted a change of taste agreed. The crane began his next flight with the crab hanging on his neck. The crab before long noticed from above a rock where a large heap of fish bones had been deposited. The ready-witted crab without opening up his mind said. "Uncle crane, we have a long way to go and you seem to be tiring. Why not take some rest on that rock and then resume the journey. The crane said, "You are a fool to believe that there can ever be a lake which won't become dry even if rains fail. I was eating the fish I had been carrying, seated on the rock and what you see are their bones. The same fate awaits you also. Make the last prayers to your deity". The crab lost no time before he pierced his sharp legs into the soft neck of his tormentor and killed him. The crab soon returned home where the other creatures

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
surrounded him and said, "Why did you return? Where is our saviour, uncle crane?" The crab laughed aloud and said, "Your uncle was a trickster. He wanted to eat us one by one while carrying us to the big lake. But this time the All-mighty helped me to finish him off and survive. Now all of us can live without fear.

(Tale 6 - continued)

The crow further questioned the fox "Friend, tell me a plan to do away with the cobra menace".

The jackal said, "Tomorrow morning you fly over the king's palace. You will definitely find some gold ornament left somewhere by a negligent member of the royal household. Pick it up and drop it into the serpent's hideout. You can see what happens next".

The following morning the crow couple were flying over the palace gardens when they spied the princess and her maids taking bath in a pond leaving their clothes and ornaments on the bank. The she-crow picked up a gold chain and flew off. The king's men followed her till they reached the banyan tree. They saw the gold chain in the cavity of the tree where a serpent stood with raised hood. They killed the cobra and recovered the ornament.

Damanaka said "The intelligent one successfully make use of his brains where a dull-wit fails to deliver. A little rabbit brought about the fall of an egoist lion.

Karataka queried, "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale – 8 THE INGENIOUS RABBIT

Bhasuraka, the lion, was the lord of the jungles. He was very proud of his strength and valour. To demonstrate this he killed every day many animals just for fun. Fearing a

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
total decimation of forest life, the animals waited on the king and submitted a petition which said, "Lord, if you continue to destroy the animals in your jurisdiction at this alarming rate there will be none left even for your majesty's daily food. We undertake to send each day one among us for your royal repast so that you need not hunt a prey".

The lion agreed and a covenant was signed to legalise the agreement. Bhasuraka threatened them with dire consequences if the agreement was broken even for a single day.

From that day onwards an animal of one species would appear at the right time for the king's lunch. One day it was the turn of rabbit and an unwilling one was chosen to go to the king. He started his journey in a slovenly fashion. One the way he was brooding on the means to escape death at the lion's hands. On traversing some distance he happened to come upon a deep well. He looked into it and saw his own reflection in the water below. The sharp-witted hare thought of a plan to end the menace caused by the lion once for all.

It was long past lunch time for Bhasuraka. No animal was in sight coming for his food. He lost patience and began to pace to and fro roaring loudly. At last he espied a little rabbit trotting at leisure towards him. The lion's anger was aflame and he shouted at the top of his voice. "You rascal, you insignificant creature, how dare you to come before me at this late hour? You little fellow has come alone. This day I am determined to strike dead all the animals after gobbling you up". With seeming meekness the rabbit bowed low and said, "Your majesty, neither I nor others are to be blamed for this lapse. Being tiny creatures five of us were sent to the king's table for lunch. Midway we were blocked by another huge lion. He roared fiercely and asked, "Where are you up to? Now offer your prayers before you die at my hands. This

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
servant of your lordship said, 'We are all sent to our king Bhasuraka for his day's repast as per agreement. He will be waiting fretfully for our arrival. We don't dare delay any longer. Kindly allow us to go. But your rival shouted instead. "Who is this Bhasuraka? He is a coward and a rascal. Let four of you remain here as surety; one can go and bring my foe Bhasuraka for a duel with me." Here I have come to convey his threat to you. Master will now decide further steps." Bhasuraka shook with rage and roared. "You lead me to that cur who boasts without knowing my strength. I shall finish him with one blow with these strong hands even if he hides in his fort". The hare cautioned, "My lord, take all precautions, for, your foe is very powerful and also he can easily escape into his hideout". Bhasuraka replied, "You bumpkin, shut up your mouth and lead me to this rascal. Leave the rest to me." The two marched forth with the hare leading the way. When they were nearing the well, the rabbit said. 'My lord, it seems that on seeing you from afar, the enemy has gone in to his forts. Please come and see for yourself where he has hidden." The hare walked to the vicinity of the well and looked into it. Bhasuraka followed suit and he saw his own image in the water below. Now thinking that it was his rival lion, he sounded a big roar. An equally loud echo came from below. The dull-wit Bhasuraka was now sure that his foe was inside the well and pounced upon his own shadow ending his life in the waters.

Damanaka said. "Dear brother, if only you permit, I shall use my intelligence to bring about the estrangement between king Pingalaka and the bull Sanjeevaka" The two brothers parted. At an opportune moment when the lion was sitting alone, Damanaka came near him. The king said, "Son, it is long since you have shown your face. What is the matter?" Damanaka said, "It is because your lordship has no use of me. But now, I have some vital information for you. Master, lend me your ear. That rascal Sangeevaka told me in

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
private, "Friend, I have now complete knowledge about the strength and weakness in Pingalaka's character. It is easy for me to put him out of the way and usurp his throne. Once I become the king of beasts, I shall install you as my chief minister." These words were too shocking for the lion to open his mouth and utter a single word. After silence for some time, Pingalaka said, Ï can't believe my ears. I am certain that such an intimate chum would not hatch a plot against me. Again it was on your advice that I gave him refuge in the forest. Even now I don't feel any ill will towards him." Damanaka said, "Lord, Sanjeevaka has no virtue in him to deserve a king's confidence. After all he is only a grass eater. By keeping his company your majesty too has become a vegetarian. Also you have forgotten your kingly obligations. In the absence of your valour and prowess your dependants have become discontented and are deserting you. It is not good to give protection to unfamiliar people. It may endanger one's own life just as the louse Mandasarpini (Slow mover) was killed because of association with the evil doer bug named Agnimukha (Sharpteeth).

Pingala asked, "How as that? "The other said.

Tale 9 AN UNWELCOME GUEST

In the elegant bed chamber of a king a louse named Mandasarpini resided under the milky white bed-sheet. She led a happy life enjoying the sweet royal blood. One day as she was rambling on the bed she met Agnimukha the bug. With a scowl she said to the new comer, "Hey Agnimukha, why did you come to an unwelcome place. Quit the royal bed quickly". The bug retorted, "Dear, is it proper to treat a guest so rudely, even if he is an evildoer? Don't you know that our scriptures consider a guest equal to a god? If only you consent, we shall share the nectarine blood of the king and live like

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
friends. I am fed up with tasting the pungent and sour blood of mean people'. The hostess Mandasarpini felt sympathy for the poor bug. She said, "I make doubly sure that the king is in deep sleep before I suck his blood. Now you are a fickle minded creature with sharp teeth. You may stay here provided you strictly follow my method of drinking blood from the king. "The two agreed on a fair code of conduct and waited under the covers for the king to come for the night repose. The king lay down on bed and was just falling to sleep. The greedy bug could not resist his instinct. He came out of hiding and inflicted a painful sting on the king with his sharp teeth. Reeling under pain, he summoned his servants to examine his bed for his tormentor. Before his chamber attendants reached, the bug quickly escaped and hid under the cot. When they took out the sheet and examined, they found out the slow moving louse and crushed her.

Damanaka continued: "Your majesty, if you don't slay Sanjeevaka, it is certain that he will gore you to death. There is a saying that one who forsakes own people and put faith in strangers is sure to lose life like Kakudruma:

To the lion's query "How was that? the other replied:

Tale 10 DON'T ESTRNGE KITH AND KIN

The jackal Chandarava (Hoarse Voice) was wandering in search of feed. Somehow he reached a town where he was rounded up by a pack of country dogs. But he could escape into a launderer's house where starched blue water was kept in a large vessel. The fox quite accidentally fell into the vessel and his whole body turned bluish. With some difficulty, he could get out and return to the forest.

The lion, the tiger and other wild beasts on seeing this unusual creature in jet blue colour sped away in fright.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
The blue fox called all the animals back and announced in a loud voice, Ï am Kakudruma. Brahma, the Creator God has sent me as your supreme lord and ruler. There is no need for you to be terrified. I am your refuge and all of you will be given protection under my royal umbrella." All the animals agreed to abide by the dispensation of the novel blue coloured king. The king banished all the foxes beyond his boundaries. He appointed the lion as his minister, the tiger as the chamberlain, the cheeta was in charge of the Treasury and the wolf was made the chief of his body guards. The king's attendants hunted prey and placed the killed animals at his royal feet. After his sumptuous feast, the king distributed the remnants among others.

Then one full moon day when the king was sitting in council, he heard the loud chorus howling of the fox herd from a distance. With joyous horripilation all over the body our blue king responded with loud howling. The other animals now recognized that the phony king was only a fox and realizing that they were all taken for a ride, the lion and the tiger pounced upon king Kakudruma and made short work of him.

Pingalaka asked the fox, "Oh Damanaka, what proof have you got to tell me that Sanjeevaka would act unjustly by me?" The fox replied, "Today he took a firm oath before me that he is determined to slay the king. I shall indicate the signs by which you can recognize his evil intentions. Tomorrow when he comes to the king's council you will notice that his eyes are reddish and he will be casting looks hither and thither. His lips will be trembling. Your lordship may decide further steps".

Now leaving the lion, the artful fox went to Sanjeevaka who was found grazing on the river banks. He saluted the bull and sat down. The bull said, "Hello Comrade, hearty

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

welcome. It is a long time since I have seen you. I hope that our king is in good health". Damanaka replied, "Dear friend, the life of the king's servant is full of trouble. He won't get time either for taking food or for a peaceful sleep. But my present mission is to convey confidential information affecting your very life. I know that it is not befitting a king's minister to divulge state secret. But since you are my bosom friend, it is my bounden duty to warn you of an imminent danger to your life. Pingalaka has begun to think and talk ill of you. In an assembly of counselors and vassals he openly declared, "I have decided to slaughter Sanjeevaka tomorrow morning and distribute his meat among you." But I protested saying that it was detestable to take the life out of a dear and near friend. But he was not amenable to wise counsels and stuck to his resolve. I believe it is a great sin to betray one who has put absolute faith in you". This is why I came immediately to inform you about the evil designs of our king."

On hearing these dreadful words, the bull fell down unconscious. When he revived, he began to lament piteously about his ill fortune. He said, "A king does not know the meaning of love and faith. It is dangerous to become friends with such undependable people. There is a saying that friendship and marriage should be contracted only among equals in wealth and family status. One who serves a king with full heart is sure to court his enmity. I feel that it is the handiwork of some one who is jealous of our friendship. That is the only reason why the king treats me so badly. I have done no harm to him. It is said that a crow and his accomplices who lived by cheating brought about death of a camel.

Damanaka asked, "How was that? " The bull replied.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 11 KING'S EVIL COUNCELLORS

The forest king, Madolkkada had three attendants, a crow, a fox and a tiger. A camel separated from a herd strayed into the forest. The lion asked, "What kind of an animal is this? I have not seen one before. Does he belong to the jungle or to the village." The crow said, "He is a domestic animal named camel. Shall we kill and eat him?" The king said, "No, that is against scriptural injunctions. He has come as our venerable guest and it is our duty to give him succour. Go and bring him to our presence. Let us find out the purpose of his visit and then decide the future course of action." The three henchmen of the king duly brought the camel to the lion who said to him, "Don't worry. You can live here without fear under my protection and graze on the lush green meadows. You need not go back to the village to carry heavy burdens any more". The strength of lion's entourage has now become four with the addition of the camel.

One day in a fierce fight between Madolkkada and a huge elephant, the lion was wounded badly. The king did not die but he was rendered too weak to hunt. They were pinched with hunger. The jungle king said, "Now you four go into the forest and seek out an animal and allure him here. Then I could slay him without much effort."

The four servants roamed about the length and breadth of the forests but failed to spot any animal. It was getting dark and they stopped their quest. The crow and the crafty fox held mutual confabulations about the next step. The fox said, "There is no use in searching for an animal after sunset. Here stands Krathanaka, the camel who is dear to our lord. By sacrificing his life, the rest can be saved from death." But the crow objected to this and said, "What you say may be true. But our king has vouchsafed his protection and nobody would dare to kill him". The fox said, "Leave that

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

to me. I shall convince his lordship and get his consent for killing the camel. You wait here till I come back". The fox approached the lion and said, "Master, we are your slaves and as per orders traversed every inch of these woods but could not locate a single creature. Your majesty and your followers, are dying of hunger. If only master permits, we would slaughter the camel and get our long denied nourishment". The king strongly protested against killing the camel for whom he had assured protection. The jackal changed his strategy and said, "I know it is against ethics to kill one who has placed full faith in your lordship's words. But, if he offers willingly to sacrifice his own life on the altar of devotion and loyalty, then nothing would be wrong in our action. In the absence of food if your majesty is to enter the other worlds, what will become of your devotees here." If it is a willing self-sacrifice, I won't object to your proposal". said the lion.

The fox returned to his friends to work out his plans. He announced. "My dear fellows, our boss Madolkkada is in dire straits; he is on the verge of death due to prolonged starvation. His precious life cannot be saved unless one of his slaves here is willing to offer his life". Then all agreed to the fox's view and they together went to the king's presence in solemn silence. The first to break the silence was the crow who said, "Lord, we searched and searched but could not find any prey till night fall. I implore your majesty, to kill me and eat the meat in order to save your precious life. By such a sacrifice, I am assured of life in the heavens." The fox now intervened to say, "It is said by law giver Manu that the flesh of crow and food left over by dog should never be eaten by king. Moreover, you are too tiny and lean to satisfy our master's hunger. Anyhow you have shown your gratitude to our master and coming generations would laud your nobility. Now it is my turn to offer myself in order to save our master

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

from death. Turning to the lion, he said, "My lord, you are welcome to allay your hunger with my flesh." The tiger now said, "My dear fox, you speak the truth. It behoves your high birth and selfless devotion to the master. But you too are lean. Again the law prohibits one from eating flesh of animals with claws as weapon. My lord, I humbly request that your majesty save your invaluable life by eating my flesh. Then I am assured of everlasting life in the heavens!" The camel Krathanaka was listening to the flowery words of his friends and started thinking, "All these fellows uttered nice words and pleased our king, but they did not lose their lives. Now it is my turn to make a nice speech to placate his majesty". He said, "Friends, you were all telling the truth. Even the tiger has claws for his weapon and his meat also is not edible." Turning to the lion he said. "Lord, the flesh of your other servants are not fit for royal repast. I pray that your lordship may slay me and eat my meat. Here on earth and there in heaven, I may get laurels." The moment the camel finished speaking, the other three pounced upon the poor camel and took his life.

Sanjeevaka asked, "Comrade, what should I do now?" Damanaka said, "It is better to flee from here than to remain serving such devils." The bull was not convinced. He said, "When a mighty foe is enraged even running away to far off places is no guarantee for safety. I would rather fight him to the finish". Damanaka was wondering what would become of the king if the bull's sharp horns pierced the lion's belly. He thought, 'I should somehow make him leave this place'. He said aloud, 'Dear friend, I agree with you. But a fight between a master and his servant is on unequal grounds and hence fraught with danger Haven't you heard, Before assessing enemy's strength

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Do not go to war with him
Ocean was vast and Tittiba small
The fight was between unequals.

Sanjeevaka queried, "How was that?" The fox replied.

Tale 12 PERSEVERENCE THE KEY TO SUCCESS

A small tittiba bird couple lived near the ocean shores. In time the she-bird conceived. One day she said, "Dear, my delivery time is nearing. This shore is not a safe place for laying eggs, for, on full moon day waters in the ocean will rise and wash away my babies. Also it might happen that some beast might trample and crush them. Therefore, lord, we shall shift to some safer place". Her husband pooh-poohed her apprehensions and said, "No darling, see how beautiful and vast the ocean shore is. Also I don't believe that the sea would dare to snatch my babies". On hearing these boastful words of an insignificant bird, the ocean thought 'what an egoist is this insect like bird. He would even lie on his back with upraised legs and claim that he is supporting the skies from falling down. He should be taught a fitting lesson. What will he do if I wash off his eggs?"

The she-bird laid eggs. When the couple flew off in search of food, the sea raised a huge wave and snatched the eggs. The parent birds came back in the evening and found that the sea has done the dirty trick of washing down the eggs. Grief-stricken the she tittiba bemoaning the loss of her babies started to berate her husband. She said, "You fool, I had warned you about this catastrophe but you did not care. Haven't you heard the story of the tortoise, which traveling by hanging on to a rod held by swans, fell flat on the ground because he discarded wise counsels.

The husband asked, "How was that?" She answered.

In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 13 THE PRICE OF IMPATIENCE

A tortoise by name Kambugreeva lived in a pond. Once two swans named Sankata and Vikata visited the lake and made friends with him. The three friends spent their time happily telling stories and sharing food. At sunset the swans flew back home. Then occurred a rainless year and the pond began to dry up. The swans said, "Dear friend, how do you propose to live here with no water". The turtle replied, "It is true that life here is impossible in the absence of water. You know I am a slow mover and can't travel for long distance in search of water. You two can help by lifting me and flying to distant lakes. To carry out this plan, you may bring a wooden rod and a piece of string". The swans fetched the materials required by the tortoise. Pieces of string were tied to the two ends of the rod and were held in the beaks of the swans. The tortoise hung to the rod by holding on to the center with his mouth. Before the start of the flight, the swans had advised the turtle not to open his mouth till they reached the destination. This flight of the friends through the skies went off uneventfully for sometime. Now they were flying over a crowded city. People in large numbers came out to the streets to witness this curious sight. The turtle lost patience and opened his mouth in order to ask why so many people were shouting loudly. He lost hold of the rod and fell down from a great height and lost his life.

(Tale 12 - continued)

The she-bird continued "One who takes due care for the future and one who takes the right decision in right time lives happily whereas one who leaves things to fate loses life.

The husband queried "How was that?" She said.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale-14 FATE IS OWN MAKING

In a lake there lived three fishes with names Anagathavidhata (Forethought), Pratyutpannamathi (Ready-wit) and Yatbhavishyam (Fatemonger). One evening some fishermen came to the lake and they noticed abundant fish in it. They said, "Tomorrow we will come and cast nets". Hearing this terrifying talk, Forethought assembled all the residents and said, "Didn't you hear those evil men say that they would come to catch fish tomorrow. We would rather move out to safety in some other water place." "Ready-wit agreed to this proposal and suggested immediate shifting of residence. But Fatemonger making fun at their pessimistic views said, "We have been living here for generations. It is not fair to put too much faith on the words of those fishers. If one is fated to die, he cannot escape it wherever he goes. I am going to stay here itself. Forethought and Readywit along with relatives and friends left the lake the same night. Fatemonger did not move out. The fishermen came early next morning and got a rich haul of fish which included our Fatemonger.

(Tale 12 contd...)

The male tittiba said, "Don't take me to be a fool like Fatemonger. See my powers; I am going to make this vast ocean dry". His wife was not convinced. She said, "What is your capability to make war on the mighty deep ocean. Every moment large masses of water are flowing into the ocean. Your only weapon is your small beak which can hold only a few drops at a time". The male partner continued to boast, "Don't worry, my love. My beak is stronger than steel. Days and nights are long and I am determined to siphon out all the water in the blue deep with my beak and take back our eggs". She said, "If you have decided that way, then get help from all the winged folk. Even though weak when alone, large

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
numbers can become invincible. Thin and fragile fibers in great numbers if spun together can hold a big elephant. A sparrow, a wood pecker, a fly and a frog joined hands to cause the death of an elephant.

The he-bird asked, "How was that?" She replied.

Tale-15 A FRIEND IN NEED

A sparrow couple had their nest on the branch of a tree. In time the she-sparrow laid eggs. A mad elephant with rut flowing along his temples came seeking shelter from heat. In a fit of rage he pulled down the branch when the nest and the eggs fell crashing. The parents survived, but the baby birds were all lost. The she-sparrow began to moan her bad fate. Her loud laments attracted her friend Kashtakooda, the wood- pecker to her side. In order to console the friend she said, "Why do you waste energy by fruitless weeping. The wise do not weep for the dead or for the living. In this mortal world one who is born is sure to die and one who dies is born again. Therefore perform the funeral rites for the dead". But the sparrow said, "It is all true. But I want to take revenge on that rascal elephant for destroying my babies. You are my bosom friend. Now tell me how to do it". The woodpecker said, "I perfectly agree with you, for,

A good friend is a true helpmate
A good son is devoted to his father
A good servant is obedient to master
A good wife gladden's husband's heart

Now be a witness to my wisdom. I have here a fly who is my intimate companion. We shall take her assistance to do away with the mad elephant". The woodpecker took the sparrow to the fly. She said "Oh dear, a devil of a tusker crushed under his feet the eggs of this sparrow. He should

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
be taught a lesson for his cruelty". The fly said, "Meghanada is a frog friend of mine. We shall meet her also and then make out a plan of retribution on the elephant". The three companions together went to meet the frog. They gave a detailed account of the evil deeds of the tusker. The four friends sat to chalk out a plan of revenge. Meghanada explained her design thus, "Dear fly, when the elephant lies down for his afternoon nap, you fly near his ears and make a musical sound as from a harp. This will make him close his eyes and he will start to doze. The wood pecker would now approach him and pierce both eyes with sharp beak. Myself along with my fellows would croak sitting near a deep ravine. The blind folded elephant, mad with thirst, will wander about and reach the edge of the ravine in the hope of getting water. He is sure to fall into the deep gorge and succumb to the fall.

The next day the plan was executed to perfection and the tusker met with a tragic end.

(Tale 12 - contd...)

The male tittiba said, "I accept your wise advice to seek the assistance of our feathered friends in my endeavour to drain the ocean dry". Then assembling together the crane and the swan, the crow and the peacock, the quail and the parrot and others, the tittiba said, "My dear folks, the ocean has washed away our eggs and has done irreparable harm and dishonour to our winged fraternity. Let us all together suck out every drop of water in the ocean and retrieve our eggs. This will teach the arrogant sea a fitting lesson so that he would think twice before repeating the mischief." "They were all in agreement with the words of the small tittiba but they could not reach a consensus as how to execute the idea. The crane suggested, "Garuda, the vehicle of Lord Vishnu, is our king and he is the biggest and strongest among us". All

In Public domain. Digitization by eGangotri and Sarayu Trust.
the birds agreed to send a delegation and petition him about their grievances. The crane was chosen as the leader which approached Garuda with tears flowing and they gave a detailed account of the injustice done to their folk by the boastful ocean. Garuda was moved by their sad story and he assured them to take stringent action against the sea. Garuda sat pondering, "The grievances of my people are very genuine and I should punish the offender". Presently a messenger from his master Lord Vishnu came to tell him that the supreme Lord wished his immediate presence for an urgent work. But Garuda was reluctant to go to his master immediately. He said, "Mr. Messenger, I am not in a mood to comply with the orders of the Lord just now. The insolent ocean has committed a wrong to my subjects. He stole the eggs of a small bird and concealed them at bottom. First I would like to wreak vengeance on him and then I shall answer to our Lords' beckon. Please convey this to him." When the messenger informed the great God-head of Garuda's resolve, Vishnu himself came to his servant's house in order to pacify his ruffled feelings. On seeing the almighty himself coming, the bird vehicle got up in deference and prostrated at those holy feet. He pleaded, "Lord, please forgive this slave's audacity to disregard your orders. I was then very cross with the ocean for plundering a poor bird's eggs. I wondered if the arrogance of the ocean was because your Lordship has his rest on the serpent bed spread on Milky Ocean. My lord himself should be pleased to chide him for his sinful action. I would have punished the ocean but for not getting your sanction" The Lord consoling his staunch devotee said " What you say is true.

A penalty imposed on servant
Is a punishment on the master
Insolence shown to a dependant
Is disrespect shown to master

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The great Lord and Garuda together reached the shores of the ocean. The supreme God stringed his bow, and aimed a powerful fiery shaft at the waters. He declared: "O wicked one, return immediately the tittiba's eggs you have plundered to their mother or else this arrow will drink you dry". Trembling with fear, the ocean appeared in human form with eggs in a salver and surrendered them to the owner offering apologies for his misdeed.

The Bull Sanjeevaka asked, "Comrade, how can I recognize that our king has evil intentions against me? Till now I have not seen even a look or heard a word against me from him". Damanaka replied: "I shall tell you the signs of one with animus against another. An enemy would have ever rolling red eyes with brows curved. He would be seen often to lick lips. If a friend, he will always show a happy visage. So fare you well, my friend. Allow me to return to my post of duty. My final advice to you is don't pick up quarrel with a powerful and ungrateful king. It is better to leave this place in the darkness of dusk"

Damanaka then returned to his brother Karataka who questioned him, "Where had you been all this time?" Damanaka replied, "I have done everything to sow the seed of discord between the lion and the bull. The rest I leave to the Fates". Karataka further questioned him, "How did you accomplish this? The two had been living for such a long time in perfect harmony and happiness. Did you consider it good to thrust two erstwhile chums into confrontation and quarrel? One who does such heinous crime will have to suffer both here and hereafter". Damanaka replied "you don't have an iota of knowledge about state craft or tactics. Haven't you heard,

An Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A rival and an epidemic should be
Immediately decimated or otherwise
Both will grow from strength to strength
And will become uncontrollable

It was I who ensured the king's protection to the wretched bull and it was this unnatural comradeship that virtually ousted me from my position and status. The bull deserves severe punishment. A wise man should always shun the proximity of a base fellow. It is said

A harlot who courts a gentleman
In time becomes his housewife

I have planned everything for the slaughter of Sanjeevaka if he flies not from here. If he is slain a sumptuous feast is assured. In case he took to heels an undesirable fellow is eliminated from the kings council.

A wise one accomplishes own goal
Without jumping into danger himself
Like Chaturaka the wise jackal
Who hoodwinked others by craft alone.

Karataka asked, "How was that?" The other said.

Tale-16 THE SLY FOX

The lion king Vajradamshtra had always about him two retainers - Chaturaka, the clever fox and Kravyamukha, the wolf. One day as the three were roaming in the forest, they happened to come upon a she-camel in labour pain. They killed the camel and was dragging the carcass when a live baby came out of her womb. The king and his hangers on satisfied their hunger with camel meat but took the baby home. The lion feeling pity on the baby assured his protection and warned the others against harming him. The camel baby

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
was given the name Sankhukarna for his conch shaped ears. In course of time he grew into a healthy animal. But still he kept company with his natural enemies.

Once Vajradamshtra engaged a wild elephant in a fierce fight. Beaten by the trunk and gored by tusks of the tusker, the lion got bruised all over the body. He became too disabled even to move about. The king commanded, "Hi, you go forth to find some animal and entice him here. Sitting here I shall kill the creature to satisfy our hunger with his meat". The fox, wolf and the camel went in search of a prey and wandered in the whole forest till evening. They could find none. The artful fox sat thinking, "The flesh of this fat Sankhukarna would be sufficient to appease our hunger. But the magnanimity of our king would stand against the heinous acts of slaying a faithful dependant. I have to make use of my fertile brain to accomplish my aim.

Anything and everything can be
Attained by use of intelligence
So take recourse to intelligence
For sustenance of soul and body

Chaturaka calling the camel aside told him confidentially. "Hi friend, our lord the lion has become critically weak for want of food. If he dies of hunger who will look after us? Therefore please lend me thy ears for some important words". Sankhukarna said, "Friend, please be quick to tell. I shall certainly act as per advice for the well-being of our master and I shall reap a hundred merits". Chaturaka said in clever words, "Son, if only you surrender your body to our king, the fruit of the act will be two fold. Not only the precious life of our king is saved but also it will ensure long stay for you in the heavens". The camel readily agreed to abide by the trickster's sweet words without understanding their full import. The three followers went to the king.

CC-0. Public domain. Digitized by Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Chaturaka addressing him said, "Lord, we were searching from dawn to dusk in the nook and corners of this forest to spot a prey but could not find any. Now it has become dark and no more search is possible. If only your majesty shows his grace to this camel by guaranteeing him fruits of two kinds for his selfless act, he is ready to surrender his body and soul for the good of the king". The camel showed his agreement by a silent shake of head. The king said, "If that is so it is well and good. Righteous works would themselves stand guarantee for good fruits". The lion had hardly finished his words, when the fox and the wolf struck the poor camel dead.

The lion king instructed the fox, "I am going to the river for a dip and offer prayers to the diety. Keep strict watch over the royal food and allow nobody to touch it till I come back." But as soon as the king went, Chaturaka said to the wolf, "You seem to be very hungry. Why don't you take a morsel of the camel meat before our king comes. Do not be afraid. I shall protect you from harm by using my wits in case the lion becomes enraged." Immediately when the wolf started his first bite, he heard Chaturaka's loud cry. "Hi Kravyamukha, our lord is coming. How dare you defile the royal repast. Run and hide." The lion came and saw that blood was oozing from the camel's heart and he suspected that someone had befouled his food. With flaming anger, and brows curved, he threatened in a loud voice. "Who had the audacity to pollute my kill? He does not deserve to live a moment longer" The wolf looked at the fox piteously hoping for intervention on his behalf. But the jackal instead said in a ridiculing tone, "Mr. Wolf, did I not warn you not to make the royal food unclean. Now reap yourself the result of committing the unpardonable sin". Kravyamukha took to heels.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Now the clever Chaturaka wanted to remove the slow - wit lion from the scene so that he could eat the camel all for himself. It was by coincidence that a loud honking sound reached the lion's ears. A frightened king asked the fox with quivering lips, "Go and find out from where this frightening sound comes". The fox walked for some distance and soon came back showing signs of nervousness on his face. He said, "Lord, I pray that you run away immediately."

The lion cried, "Out with your tale. Why do you want to make me panicky?" The clever fox said, "Yama, the God of Death has become very angry with you for killing his pet young camel. To avenge his untimely death, the great God has thrown open the gates of Hell and released a horde of ghosts of the ancestors of this poor camel. There hangs a giant bell on the neck of the leading ghost and this makes the terrifying noise". Now the lion saw a big herd of camels coming at a distance. The lion lost no time to vanish from the scene. The crafty Chaturaka had a hearty meal of camel meat all for himself.

When Damanaka was gone leaving him alone the bull started brooding over his ill fortune. "Oh bad! what have I done ! A vegetarian like me should never have befriended with these cruel and hard - hearted meat eaters. Now there is no alternative but to try to placate Pingalaka who might spareme in consideration of long standing happy association. Even if I tried to escape his clutches by running away, some other meat eater might kill me." Sanjeevaka with slow and faltering steps approached the king. Even from a distance he was muttering under his lips. He curved his body as if under threat and entered the royal presence without the usual show of servilities. Pingalaka was reminded of the early warning of the fox about Sanjeevaka and thinking that the bull was intending to charge against him pounced upon him. With sharp claws the lion cut deep wounds on his erstwhile

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
alter ego. The huge bull pierced the lion's belly with his sharp pointed horns. Now the two stood facing each other and were on the look out to kill the other. Streams of blood flooded from their bodies.

Karataka was watching the scene closely. He said to his brother, "You were a fool to rupture the friendship between the king and the bull. You are ignorant about the fundamentals of state policy. A wise minister is one who makes use of his maturity and wisdom to navigate the ship of state in the ocean of peace and concord. You seem to blow up paltry issues to suit your narrow self-interest. You use methods of violence which might end in dethronement of the king or even in his death. Haven't you heard,

An inflexible log cannot be bent
A shaving razor cannot be sharpened on a rock
Hey Soochimukha, a blockhead of a disciple
Cannot be rendered wise advice by a teacher

"How was that?" asked Damanaka. The reply was

Tale 17,18 UNSOUGHT ADVICE COURTS DANGER

In a hilly region there lived a group of monkeys. Rainy season set in and torrential downpour started. The monkeys frozen with severe cold wanted to make fire to keep them warm. One of them picked up some fiery red abrus seeds. Thinking that these were live coals, they placed tiny twigs and dry leaves over them and started to fan up a flame. A tiny bird Soochimukhi came flying from nowhere and began to ridicule their foolishness. He said, "You are idiots to take these red seeds for sparks of fire. Your plan to blow up flame is waste of time. It would be better for you to take shelter in a cave or mountain ridge. Heavy dark clouds are hanging ready to pour down". An old monkey advised the bird, "Mind

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
your own business and leave us alone" One who has lost in gambling or one who is not successful in his labours should never be given advice; but the little bird kept on prattling about the foolishness of the apes. Alas! one of the irritated monkeys caught hold of Soochimukha and crushed him to death.

A boby can never be appeased
Instead he flares up with anger
A cobra only enlarges its poison fang
Even though fed daily on milk
A goof should never be advised
A bird's nest was shattered
By an irate monkey

"How was that?" queried Damanaka. The other said

On a big tree a bird couple had their cozy nest. On a rainy day unable to bear severe cold a monkey shivering and teeth rattling came under the tree for protection. The she-bird took pity but used sarcastic comments on the suffering monkey. She said, "Dear sir, you appear to be manly with strong hands and legs. Then why did you not build a house for the inclement rainy season?" Unable to put up with these gibes the incensed monkey said, "You she-devil, do you think that I am a fool to bear such insults? You boast of your sharp beak and black tongue." With these words he climbed up and shattered her nest.

Karataka continued, "If you discard my counsels out of pride or egoism you are sure to suffer its evil consequences. Those who find pleasure in the suffering of others, fails to foresee the dangers to their own selves.

The story of Dharmabudhhi (Righteous mind) and Pupabudhi (Sinful mind) illustrates this point.

Damanaka asked, "How was that?" Karataka replied

In Public domain. Digitized by Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 19 EVIL RECOILS

Dharmabudhi and Papabudhi were friends. Once Papabudhi sat musing. "I am not a scholar nor am I clever. Dharmabudhi is honest and skilled. Therefore if we two together go to places, Dharmabudhi will be able to earn money. Then my crookedness will suffice to cheat him and get hold of all wealth". Dharmabudhi agreed to go with his friend to other villages. The two amassed a treasure of wealth and returned home. On their way back they reached a jungle not far from their village. Papabudhi suggested that they take home only a portion of the treasure. He said, "If we take all this money home our friends and relatives won't give us peace of mind. So let us bury part of our possessions here and take only a portion home" They buried a large part of the riches under a tree in the forest agreeing to come back when they had spent what they take with them.

One should never open

His purse before others

For money brings greedy thoughts

Even in a sage's mind

After a few days Papabudhi went alone and took away the whole treasure buried under the tree. Then later one day he approached Dharmabudhi and said, "Comrade, I have now only an empty purse; come let us get some more money from the 'safe deposit' under the tree." When they dug under the tree, they found that all their money had vanished. Papabudhi, pretending to be aggrieved, said, "Friend, you have stolen all our treasure, is it not true? I am going to lodge a complaint with the judges". Dharmabudhi said, "I am very honest, I am not a thief".

In Public Domain. Digitization - Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The duo went to the judge and explained why they had come to seek justice. The judges ordered grilling them both, even using tortune to find the truth. Papabudhi intervened to say, "Your honour, it is not right to use third degree methods as a start for investigation. When there arises a dispute, first we have to take evidence, examine witness and base the judgment on the law books. Torture methods should be used only as the last resort. I have the tree-deity as my true witness. Let us go and pray for her wise words. The judges agreed to approach the goddess of tree and try to settle the dispute on her divine evidence.

Papabudhi went straight to his father at home and said, "Dear Papa, I pilfered a large amount of money belonging to Dharnabudhi and concealed it in our house. If only you say a word in my favour, the wealth is ours for ever; otherwise I shall have to pay with my head for this act of felony". The father asked, "What should I do, my son?" Papabudhi replied, "We had buried our treasure under a tree having a big hollow on its trunk. You have to hide yourself in the hollow tonight. Then next morning we will come there along with the judges and when I call out to the tree-deity to name the culprit, you have to cry out from your hiding, "Dharmabudhi is the thief".

Next morning the two friends accompanied by the judges reached under the tree. Papabudhi in an offended tone cried,

"The Sun and Moon, Air and Fire, Heaven and Earth, the Gods of the quarters, the Dawn and Dusk and all other gods, are ever witnessing human activities. Therefore declare, Oh Deity of trees, who among us has stolen the treasure".

Papabudhi's father concealed in the tree cavity cried out, "Dharmabudhi is the thief". The judges were amazed and they began to turn the pages of the law books to decide

In Public Domain. Digitization: Muthulakshmi Research Academy
on the punishment to be awarded for felony. By this time the intelligent Dharmabudhi, sensing foul play, gathered twigs and dry leaves and other inflammable materials, put these round the tree and set fire to it. When the blazing fire reached the hollow, out jumped the old man, Papabudhi's father with eyes bulged and watering and body half burnt. The judges were all the more amazed. The poor old man told the judges that all these misdeeds were his son's making. He then fell dead.

The judges then ordered that Papabudhi be hanged till death. The judges praised the acumen showed by Dharmabudhi to bring out the immorality of Papabudhi. They said,'One who plans a design for implementation should foresee the consequences of the action. The unwise action of a foolish crane caused the destruction of his friends by a mangoose.

To Dharmabudhi's query "How was that?" they replied.

Tale-20 DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

A huge flock of cranes lived near a banyan tree. A cobra residing in a hollow of the tree made a living on the baby cranes. A crane which had lost all her chicks to the snake was standing on the shores of a lake shedding tears of grief. A crab seeing his natural enemy approached her and asked, "Aunty, why do you cry so piteously?" She said, "All my young ones have been swallowed by a wicked cobra residing on that tree. My sorrow has become unbearable. Please suggest a way to do away with him." The crab sat musing for a few minutes, "The cranes are my enemies by birth and serpents are inimical to the cranes. I would suggest a way in order to bring about the decimation of the cranes and the death of the cobra. The crab said aloud, "Madam, I shall suggest to you a sure way to bring about the death of

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
your arch enemy. You know that nearby there is the den of a mangoose who could easily kill the snake. So, put pieces of fish from the mouth of his burrow up to the tree cavity". The crane did so, and the mangoose picking up the scent of fish came out. Then he gulped the fish pieces as he walked on till he reached the cobra's hide-out. He first killed the serpent. Then he turned his attention to the cranes and finished off the flock of cranes one by one.

Karataka said, "Damanaka, you are an evil genius. Now in endangering our king's life and break up of his friendship with the bull you have shown that you are both wicked and crooked. I don't like to keep your company any more. Hear this story.

If a heavy iron balance rats could eat
Falcon could pick and fly with a boy.

Damanaka asked, "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale-21 RAT EATS IRON

The trader Jeernadhana (Declining Fortune) became disconsolate with loss of wealth. He decided to go abroad for extending his business.

One who lived in comfort and prosperity
Would like to leave his place of birth
When once his wealth has declined.

Jeernadhana had with him a heavy iron balance inherited from his forefathers. Before leaving home, he took the balance to a friendly trader and entrusted it for safe custody. Then after a few years he returned to his native village. He went to his trader friend for getting back his balance. The second trader said, "Friend, I am very sorry. The whole balance has been gnawed and eaten by rats".

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
Jeernadhana said, "Okay, don't worry. You are not to be blamed for the mischief of rats. All earthy objects are subject to decay and ruin. Now, could you send your dear son, Dhanadeva with the things required for my ablution in the river." The other trader agreed and asked his boy to accompany Jeernadhana to the river under hope that his trick would go undetected. He said, "My dear son, please go with him who is like a father to you."

One renders service to others
Prompted by selfish motives only

After finishing his bath Jeernadhana came up from the river. He made the boy sit in a cave on the river bank and closed its entrance with a heavy stone. When the guest returned alone, the other trader asked, "Hi friend, where is my darling boy who accompanied you to the river". With a show of deep grief Jeernadhana replied, "My friend, how shall I console you? While the boy was waiting on the shore I witnessed a big falcon lifting him on its claws. I did my best to save him but failed. I am really sorry at your great loss." The host lost his temper and said in a trembling voice, "What nonsense are you talking. You are a liar. Who has ever heard of a boy being picked up by a falcon? Return my son immediately or I will sue you before the judge". Jeernadhana retorted with equal vehemence. "What sort of an honest man are you! If a falcon cannot lift up and fly with a boy, so also rats cannot eat away a balance made out of solid iron. Return to me my balance and you will get back your boy." The host took his case to the judges and complained that Jeernadhana had snatched away his darling son. On being questioned by the judges, Jeernadhana said, "Before my very eyes, I saw the boy being scooped by a falcon from the river bank" On seeing the look of disbelief on the face of judges, Jeernadhana said, "If a heavy iron balance could be eaten by rats, a falcon could as well pick a boy." Then he gave a detailed account of

In Public domain. Digitized by Muthulakshmi Research Academy
the incidents that led up to the present case. The judges laughed aloud and ordered the host to return the balance to Jeernadhana for getting back his son. Both parties parted with a shake of hands. Karataka continued: You did all these misdeeds out of jealousy for the king's faith and love for Sanjeevaka.

Better than a goofy confidant
Is a learned enemy
The King was killed by a monkey
But the thief saved the brahmin.

To Damanaka's query "How was that?" the other replied.

Tale-22 (1) GOOFY CONFIDANT KILLS THE MASTER

A king had a monkey as a friend and confidant body guard. He had free access to all parts of the palace including the chambers of royal ladies. One day the king was having his afternoon nap. The monkey with a sword in hand was guarding his master. A fly came from nowhere and sat on the king's breast. The monkey drove away the insect but it soon came back to sit on the same place. This act of driving away of the fly and its coming back continued for a number of times. The enraged monkey drew the sharp blade and struck hard at the fly sitting on the king. The fly flew off but his majesty succumbed to the deep bleeding wound.

Tale 22 (2) SELF SACRIFICE OF LEARNED THIEF

A learned brahmin living in a city took to stealing as an evil fruit of his sinful works in previous births. One day he happened to meet four brahmin traders from another place engaged in selling a large stock of goods. Our brahmin thief was set to ponder, "How could I cultivate their friendship

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri Mythulakshmi Research Academy

and snatch their wealth." He approached them and politely offered his services. By and by using officious conduct in rendering services to the merchants he gained their confidence and good will. He followed them everywhere talking sweetly and helping them in their business. The four merchants sold all their goods and with the money brought precious stones and gems. They deftly hid the treasure inside their calf muscles and were preparing to go back home. Our brahmin thief felt disappointed that he could get nothing from them. He decided to accompany them with a secret design of taking their lives on the way and looting their riches. He came to them with streaming eyes pretending that he was grieved at their parting. He said. "Dear sirs, do not leave your intimate companion and deny his chance to be of service during your journey." Moved by these sweet words of the scoundrel they allowed him to go with them.

On their way they had to cross a place infested with cruel thugs. There lived a flock of crows which had been trained to sound alarm to warn them of the approach of strange people carrying wealth. On spotting these merchants the crows voiced their warning. The thugs who recognized this language of the crows came out rushing and waylaid the travellers. They stripped the brahmins naked and searched their bodies for valuables but failed to find any. The brutes knew very well that the talk of the crows could not be false. They threatened the merchants. "Surrender all your wealth immediately, or else we will cut open your skins and recover hidden riches." Now our Brahmin thief mused, if these devils skin my friends, they are sure to find gems and the end result will be the death of all the five of us. But if they search me first and fail to find anything valuable, these wild men might set the others free without any harm. The sacrifice of my life for saving the lives of friends will surely be rewarded in my next birth."

In Public Domain. Digitization by Muthulakshmi Research Academy

One who fears to die is cherish
Fear grips him all the time
Death is certain to occur today
Tomorrow or perhaps a century hence.

He said to the thugs, "If that is what you intend to do, then first remove my skin and search for treasure. You will find that there are no hidden valuables". This they did but found nothing. The rest were freed and allowed to go their way.

While Karataka and Damanaka were thus engaged in conversation, there ensued a fierce battle between Pingalaka and Sanjeevaka. The lion tore the bull with his sharp claws and teeth and inflicted deep injuries on his body. Finally the poor bull died a martyr to the machinations of the crafty fox.

The lion king Pingalaka felt extreme remorse at the tragic demise of his true friend and faithful retainer the bull Sanjeevaka. He started lamenting loudly beating his breast pathetically. Damanaka approached the king to pacify him with words of wisdom "My lord, weeping this way is unbecoming of a king and lord of the forest. In state craft, a king will have to employ various tactics - at times telling truth, at other times uttering falsehood, sometimes he has to be very hard -hearted and on other occasions show kindness; sometimes he has to amass wealth by heavy taxation and at other time he has to shower munificence". As weeks and months ticked off, Pingalaka forgot his sorrow over the death of Sanjeevaka. He appointed Damanaka as his chief minister and administered the kingdom to the satisfaction of all.

(Thus comes to close the First Tactics named Break up of Friendship In Panchatantra)

In Public domain. Digitized by Muthulakshmi Research Academy

SECOND TACTICS

WINNING FRIENDS



The flock of doves escapes the hunter's aim

SECOND TACTICS – WINNING FRIENDS

Preamble to the stories in second tactics called Winning Friends

A huge banyan stood spread out on the outskirts of the city of Mahilaropya in the southern parts. On the far-reaching branches of this tree thousands of birds of various kinds had their nests. In its cavities and holes teeming hordes of insects, worms and mites found haven. In the lush shade of the tree, travellers enjoyed cool comfort from hot sun. Apes and monkeys in large numbers frolicked from branch to branch. Bees and butterflies relished honey in the flowers without fear.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Lekhupathanaka was a crow that lived on the tree. One morning he was about to fly in search of feed. A fiendish hunter and bird catcher, jet black in colour, short statured, and with hairs standing on head, was sighted coming in the direction of the banyan. He had a large net, a big rod and other equipments of his profession. Lekhupatanaka was apprehensive of the hunter who appeared like the God of death. He warned his friends to be wary of the hunter's designs. He said: "The grains that he spreads under the net should be shunned like poison".

The hunter came under the tree, scattered grains on the floor and cast his net. Then he distanced from the spot and stood hiding. In the meantime a large flock of doves under the leadership of their king Chitragreeva was coming in flight. The greedy eyes of these birds spotted the grains of corn spread on the ground. They descended and soon landed on the net in order to peck at the grains in spite of warning of the crow. They soon realized that they were enmeshed. Now Chitragreeva noticing the hunter coming rushing towards them with upraised rod said to his followers. "Don't get frightened, fellows. Let us all together lift the net up and fly for safety." They all did as commanded by their king. The bird catcher followed on foot for some distance. When he got exhausted he stopped the chase and returned, all the time blaming his ill fortune.

Lekhupathanaka wanted to know what would happen next and followed the doves. Chitragriva now looked down and finding no trace of the hunter said to his followers, "Friends, the devilish bird catcher has gone back. In the vicinity of the city lives Hiranyaka, the rat and he is a close friend of mine. He will cut the strings of the net and make us free." All the doves obeying the king's instruction came down and landed near the rat's thousand-mouthed burrow. This was the safe fort of our rat.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A fort affords the king protection greater
Than thousand elephants or horses do

Chitragriva sitting at the entrance of the rat's den called out, "Hiranyaka my dear friend, your chum Chitragriva, the dove king is here at your door. Please come out and help to make us free from the hunter's net. " On hearing the familiar voice of his long time comrade, Hiranyaka issued out of his burrow and greeted him warmly. He asked, "How has this happened?" The dove king replied: Every one experiences happiness or suffering only as a result of his past works. Avarice for food landed us in the hunter's snares. You alone can assist us and make us free". The rat immediately started to cut the strings binding the king first. But Chitragriva objected saying, "Friend, help my followers and make them free first. Otherwise if something happens to you or if the hunter comes in the meanwhile, what will happen to the poor creatures. It is the duty of a king to look after the welfare of his subjects first because they are the real wealth of a kingdom. A king who indulges in selfish pleasures without concern for the well-being of the people fall into the nether worlds of suffering says the scriptures." Hiranyaka was glad to hear such words of wisdom from his friend and he said: "My dear friend, what you have said are the policies to be followed by a righteous leader and I know all these. I wanted only to test your wisdom". The rat then cut all the shackles binding the doves and set them free. Chitragriva thanked his benefactor and friend and flew away. Hiranyaka got into his safe haven.

The incidents starting with the ensnaring of the doves and ending with their release from fetters were keenly watched by Lekhupathanaka. Impressed with the wisdom and skill of Hiranyaka, the crow wished to cultivate his friendship. He went to the door of the rat hole and calling him by name wished him to come out to meet him. The rat refused to oblige

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
saying that rats and crows are born enemies. He said to the crow: "You are the eater and I am your food. We two have nothing in common. You please go away without troubling me". The crow still persisted "What you say is true. But in case you don't have faith in me, you may sit inside your fort. I shall sit outside. Still we can be friends. If you still refuse my prayer, I will remain here without food and drink till you relent".

These clever words honestly spoken by the crow moved the heart of the rat. He came to the doorsteps of his residence and vouchsafed his hand of friendship to Lekhupatanaka. As time passed their companionship grew from strength to strength. The two led a happy life by engaging in conversation and story telling and sharing of food. Then one day Lekhupathanaka came to meet his friend with tearful eyes and started to lament: "Dear comrade, this place has become unbearable for a peaceful living. Rains have failed for quite some time, crops have failed and food has become scarce, the hungry people have started to live on birds. Many of my kinsfolk have died. Survival under these conditions has become impossible. I have decided to desert this horrible place." The rat asked: "Friend, where do you intend to go?" The crow replied. "There is a large forested area in the south and in its midst there is a big lake abounding in lotus flowers and there lives my friend Mantharaka, the turtle. He will be happy to welcome me and provide for my comforts". Then Hiranyaka said: "I too am fed up living in this place. I shall accompany you to where you are going, the reasons for my leaving this abominable place, I shall tell you later. You may place me on your back and fly to your destination.

Lekhupathanaka, the crow flew through the skies with Hiranyaka on his back. The approach of a strange creature was sighted from a distance by the tortoise Mantharaka. The frightened turtle suddenly jumped into the lake and hid

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri
himself in the waters. The crow reached the lakeshore and placed the rat in a hole at the foot of a tree. He then perched himself on a branch of the tree and then spoke loudly: "Dear Mantharaka, it is I, Lekhupatanaka the crow who has come to meet his chum. Please come out and hold me fast in your loving arms" Mantharaka, recognizing the voice of his comrade whom he hadn't met for long, now came out of the lake. The two stood for a long time in a warm embrace.

The crow and the turtle were engaged in conversation when Hiranyaka issued out of the hole, bowed to Mantharaka and sat near them. The tortoise asked the crow: "Who is this my new guest? How was it that you came flying with this rat on your back? A rat is a natural foe of crows." Lekhupatanaka answered: "He is Hiranyaka my close associate. He has come with me having lost interest in this worldly life. He told me that he would give a detailed account of the cause of this indifference. Now let us hear your story." Hiranyaka said:

Tale – 1 LOSS OF POWER LEADS TO DEJECTION

Near the city of Mahilaropya in the southern parts there stands a temple dedicated to Lord Siva. In a room adjoining the temple lived an ascetic by name Thamrachooda. He got his daily bread by beggary. After satisfying his hunger he kept the remaining food in a pot and hung it from a hook above his cot. Next morning he distributed this food to the workers who came to clean the temple premises and his own room. One day my (Hiranyaka's) followers came and informed me "Lord, there lives near the temple an ascetic who hangs food in a pot over his bed. We know that you are capable of snatching and distributing it among us. We need not roam about in search of food, when it is available near at hand." I agreed to their request and at night led my troupe to the room of the sage. I very easily jumped high to reach the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
begging bowl where food had been kept. Then I took out the eatables and shared it among us. This depredation continued night after night. The sage tried every trick to scare us away but it was of no avail. Then one day he brought a thick bamboo stick and as he lay down for sleep kept tapping the hanging bowl. We failed to find a way out to get our daily bread from his bowl.

Then one day an anchorite friend of Thamrachoda came there on a visit. He was warmly received and provided with food and bedding. At night the two friends lay down and started conversing with one another. Thamrachooda started his usual hitting on the pot. His friend now became aware that the host was not giving proper attention to hearing his talk. He felt irritated and said: "Revered sir, you don't show your former warmth for me, you don't speak nicely to your friend. I can't tolerate your disregard for me. I am going to leave you this night itself. Thamrachooda felt ashamed at his own bad manners. He said: "Dear friend, please hear my reasons for not showing proper courtesy when you were talking. A devilish rat comes daily, jumps very high to reach my begging bowl where the remnants of food are kept. It is to scare him away that I keep tapping on the pot. But what amazes me is his energy and skill in jumping which is unmatched even by cat and monkey". The guest asked: "Do you know where his burrow is?" "That I don't know", replied the host. The guest said: "Then his place must be over a treasure from which he gets his prodigious energy and skill. For every effect there must be sufficient cause. Haven't you heard this story:

Shandily would have sufficient reason for the exchange of cleaned and pounded sesame seed for uncleaned seeds.

To Thamrachooda's question, "How was that?" the other replied

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale –2 BARTER ON EQUAL TERMS

There lived a brahmin and his wife. One day the husband said: "Dear, tomorrow begins the journey of the sun towards south. It is an auspicious day to receive gifts from householders. I am going to other villages to receive charities from there. Tomorrow is also a good day to propitiate a guest at home. Therefore you should surely entertain a brahmin guest with food and comforts." The lady got angry and chastised her man in abusive language. She said: "Do you think that any decent householder would give alms to a vagabond like you. Since I came to live with you after marriage I have not enjoyed comforts or peace of mind even for a day." The poor husband trembling at the shower of abuse said in a low voice: "Dear, don't be so harsh with me; a householder considers a guest as a god and welcomes him with full heart.

A rich man may give precious gifts to reap fruit of charity. A poor man gets equal merit by bestowing humble gifts, says scriptures. A wiseman who gives alms to the right person at right place and time without expecting returns gains eternal bliss. One may entertain small desires but no avarice. A fox came to tragic end after biting the end of bowstring.

The lady asked: "How was that?" to which the brahmin replied.

Tale 3– AVARICE SPELLS DISASTER

A hunter while he was roaming in the forest was confronted by a giant wild boar. He stringed his bow and pulling the string up to his ear shot a sharp shaft at the animal. The angry animal pounced on the hunter and pierced his belly with the horn. The man fell dead on the spot. Stuck by the arrow the boar also died. A hungry and voracious fox

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

appeared on the scene. He was pleased to see the dead man and the dead boar. He praised his good fortune that placed before him sumptuous food.

A good or bad effect coming without effort is the work of the Fates.

"There lies the tasty flesh of the boar at one place and human flesh to allay hunger at another place. These can be relished later. Let me start with the bow string which is made of animal tendon" With such thoughts in mind the fox placed the sharp end of the bow in his mouth and bit the string. The bowstring was cut and the loose sharp end of bow pierced his throat and came out through the neck. The fox writhing in pain experienced a tragic end.

(Tale 2 – continues)

Thus moved by the nice words of her husband, the lady took out of the store some sesame seeds. She immersed them in water, cleaned and pounded with hands. She then put the same in the sun to dry. Then while she was engaged in her household chores, a dog came that way and pissed onto the sesame kept in the sun. The brahmin lady was much distressed that the sesame has been rendered inedible by the dirty urine of the dog. She wanted to be clever and so took the tainted stuff to her neighbor. She asked her neighbor housewife to exchange her cleaned and pounded sesame for the uncleaned stuff in her house. The lady of the neighboring house was willing for the exchange but her son objected for this unequal transaction. He said: "Mother, this uneven trade off is unacceptable to scriptures. There is some bad motive in Shandini's offer for exchange" So our brahmin lady had to return disappointed.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
(Tale – 1 continues)

The guest ascetic asked: "What do you know about his ways by which he organizes his attack." Thamrachooda answered: "Holy sir, I know that. He comes with a horde of followers every night. But if they see me awake they all run helter skelter." The other said: "Tomorrow we shall follow their footprints and reach their hideout". I was perturbed by these frightening words. So, next night I led my people by a different route to reach the hermit's room. But an unexpected danger in the form of a big cat appeared all of a sudden in front of us. He immediately darted on to us killing a number of my people. The rest of the flock, except I, escaped into the burrow cursing me for the tragedy. I was very much grieved and ran off to another place.

Next morning those two wicked hermits following the bloodstains of the previous night reached our hideout with a pickaxe in hand. They dug and dug and finally discovered the treasure box over which I had my residence. The guest recluse said: "Now you may sleep without fear because the rat will loose his secret energy supply if we take away all his riches". They lifted the chest and took it to their room. When I went to my fort I found that my treasure had been lost. Anyhow, that night I went along with my remaining followers to the hermitage. Hearing the noise of our coming Thamrachooda started to tap. But his friend said derisively, "Holy sir, you need not fear any more. With the loss of the treasure chest his power also has gone. It is said:

Treasure ensures victory over rivals
Giving opportunity to boast on victory.

I was extremely watchful and jumped with all the power left to reach the pot hanging above. I fell flat on the floor unable to reach my goal. Despondent over my loss of power I went back bemoaning my ill luck. My followers now

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
lost faith in me and joined my rival camp. I lost all taste in food and sleep. Instead a train of thoughts passed through my mind: "This lonely life is unbearable. I should make a final attempt to snatch from the ascetics my stolen treasure. It would be better to loose life in the effort to regain my power than lead a useless life" I went to the hermit's room in the cover of darkness and started to search for the chest kept under his pillow. Thamrachooda woke up and struck me hard with his bamboo stick. I just escaped the beating without harm and ran for life. Hence I say;

Riches will accrue to one who is fated
Not even gods can deny it to him
What is meant for our pockets
Nobody else will get.

The crow and the turtle asked: "How was that?" Hiranyaka said.

Tale –4 MERITED WEALTH ONE IS SURE TO GET

Roopakasata (Hundredshape) was the son of Sagaradutta (Oceangift). He bought a book with only a single verse in it given below.

Merited wealth one is sure to get
Not even Creator can deprive him
Hence I don't grieve or wonder

What is my due I am sure to recieve

The merchant Sagaradutta asked: "Son, what is the price of this book?" The son replied: "One hundred rupees." "Fool, this one-versed book costs hundred rupees! How are you going to thrive in this world? Get out" chiding his son thus, the father exiled him.

Ashamed, the boy went to stay in a distant city. After a few days one citizen asked him "Where do you come from?

In Public domain. Digitization: Muthulakshmi Research Academy
What is your name?" The boy answered only; "Prapthavyamartham (Merited Wealth) one is sure to come by." To another and to another and to all who asked he gave the same reply. Thus in the city he came to be known by the name Prapthavyamartham (Meritedwealth).

One day the charming daughter of the king by name Chandramathi accompanied by her faithful maid had come to witness a festival in the temple. Some distance away her eyes fell on a handsome prince. She fell in love at first sight with him. She sent her maid with a message of love. The maid approached the prince and said: "Revered prince, my mistress, the princess Chandramathi has asked me to convey this message to you. "Beloved, I fell in love with you at first sight. The arrows of Cupid pierce me and I am in severe pain. Therefore I pray you to come to my bedchamber to-night. And if you don't, you will be causing my death" The prince asked: "Tell me how could I reach her chamber?" The maid said: "Prince, you will find a strong rope hanging from the balcony of her room.You can reach there by the rope" The prince agreed to do as desired by the princess and the lady reported his consent to her mistress. The sun disappeared down the western horizon. Then the prince had second thoughts on the desirability of such an unbecoming conduct on his part. He abandoned his intention to visit the princess. Now as our Meritedwealth was walking along the city streets, he espied a hanging rope from the terrace of the royal residence. Out of curiosity he climbed up using the rope and reached at the door of the princess' room. The king's daughter taking him to be her paramour led him into her chamber. He was bathed, given fine clothes, tasty food and was invited to her bed. Excited and pleased by his acts of endearment and love, princess Chandramathi cooed into his ears, "O sweet, I became enamoured of you at first sight and I am now yours body and soul. Why don't you speak a few sweet words in

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
my ears." He only said "Merited wealth accrues to one". The princess now realized that she had committed a mistake and banished him from the palace.

Our Merited wealth sauntered in the darkness of night and came into a deserted temple in ruins. He was looking for a quiet place to sleep when a policeman came there. This policeman had made arrangements with a harlot to come there. So he asked the young merchant to go to his own house since the temple was not a safe place to sleep. He went to the policeman's house and was about to occupy a cot there. In came the policeman's fair daughter who had asked her lover to meet her. Mistaking in the darkness that her lover had come as appointed, she held him in her arm and led him to her bed. Her lotus face bloomed with bliss at his touch and other acts of love. She murmured in his ear, "Darling, why don't you utter even a word of endearment to me?" He simply replied: "Merited wealth accrues to one". Realizing her mistake, she asked the merchant's son to quit immediately.

Meritedwealth now took to the main road. The dawn was near at hand. He witnessed a marriage procession moving along the road and he joined the group. The bride's house was by the roadside. Since the auspicious time for the nuptials was nearing she, dressed in all her fineries, was standing near the decorated stage. Presently a mad elephant with ichors flowing down its temples, after killing its keeper, came rushing that way. All people were terrified and ran hither and thither for fear of life. Meritedwealth now approached the terror-stricken bride and allaying her fear said: "Don't be frightened, lady." He held her right hand in his and showing great courage scolded the elephant at the top of his voice. By God's will the animal turned and rambled in another direction. The girl looked at her saviour gratefully and held his hand tightly in hers.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

When normalcy returned, bride's father and the groom's party came to wedding stage. To his dismay the bridegroom found his betrothed girl holding the hand of a stranger. He turned to the bride's father and said in an injured tone: "You had promised to give your daughter to me in marriage. But now you have entrusted her in another hand. This is quite unfair." The father replied: "My son, like you I also ran off when the elephant was rushing amuck. I don't know what happened." Then to his daughter he said: "My dear, what you have done was wrong." The girl replied: "Dear father, it was this young man who saved me from the mad elephant. Now I can't marry anyone else but him. The news spread and the whole city flocked to the scene. The princess came and the policeman and his daughter came. Finally the king himself appeared. He asked the merchant's son to give an honest account of the incidents of the night. He simply repeated his stock words, "Merited wealth accrues to him." The princess said; "It was this man who came to my chamber last night. Not even God can change the ways of fate" The policeman's daughter also said the same. The bride said: "He is mine and I will not part from him. Having listened to everybody, the king pardoned the mistakes of all. He gave his daughter in marriage to Meritedwealth and also a grant of thousand villages in dowry. The policeman and the merchant chief also married their daughters to Roopakasatha with appropriate dowry. He brought his parents and other relatives to settle down in the city.

Hiranyaka stopped. Then after some time he continued. "This is the story of my indifference to the life in my native place. That is why I came here along with Lekhupatanaka." The turtle said: "This crow is a true friend for he did not make a meal of you. I welcome you both to my place and we three can live in intimate friendship." From that day they spent their time engaged in story telling and

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

sharing food and drink. One day Mantharaka detailed the interesting tale of Somalika who could not enjoy his earning because of bad fate.

Tale –5 FATE DECIDES COURSE OF LIFE

Somalika was an expert weaver. He could make exquisitely picturesque fabrics fit for royalty. Even though he was adept in the art of cloth weaving he could hardly earn more than enough to meet his daily needs. Others who could produce only rough cloths amassed wealth because there was good demand for cheap inferior stuff. One day Somalika said to his wife: "Dear, this place is not suitable for an expert weaver like me. I intend to go elsewhere where I could earn a large income. Then I shall return home a rich man and live in ease and comfort." His wife did not agree with his proposal and tried to dissuade him. Somalika refused to budge from his decision to go abroad.

He went to a city called Vardhamana and did hard work for three years. With a saving of three hundred gold coins, he was returning home. By nightfall he reached a dense forest. He was tired and could not go further in darkness. He climbed a big tree and was about to fall asleep on a branch of the tree. Then he saw, as if in a dream, two male figures talking to one another. One said: "Oh Deity of Works, was it not you who declared that this Somalika would be entitled just enough money to eke out a bare living. Then how is that he has in his purse three hundred gold coins which serves more than his needs". The other said; "It is so, oh Deity of Fruit of Works, but a man's works have to be given the fruits due and it is my duty to provide him with it. Now it is your affair to see whether he is entitled to enjoy it." The weaver woke up with a start. He opened his purse and saw that the money had disappeared. Somalika cursed his stars and sat

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
cogitating, "I earned money with the sweat of brow but now all is lost. I am rendered a pauper and I am ashamed to face my wife and relatives."

Somalika returned to Vardhamana and with untiring labour he earned a wealth of five hundred gold coins. This time he reached the same forest by sunset. Now in spite of his weariness he egged on to forestall repetition of his bad experiences of last time. Then he saw the same two forms walking towards him. One said: "O Deity of works, why have you permitted this Somalika to earn more than his actual necessity. The other said: "O Deity of Fruits, I cannot deny him the fruits of his works. You are there to see whether he should enjoy his wealth or not. Why do you blame me?" And once again the weaver found his purse emptied mysteriously. He became very sad and started thinking: "A poor man's life is wretched. I am going to end this miserable life at the end of a rope." He climbed the tree and tying one end of a rope to one branch and the other end to his neck he was about to jump down. He heard a voice from the skies "No, Somalika don't jump. It was I who took away all your earnings and I won't permit you to possess more than what you actually need. I am pleased with your courage. You, a mortal has seen my divine form and it will not go unrewarded. Ask of me one boon and it shall be granted." Somalika said "Oh, divine one, if you have been pleased with me, grant me the boon to posses lots of money" The god said: "No that is beyond my powers. You are fated to have only as much money as to buy your bare necessities of food and clothing and no more. There can be no use for you with more riches." Somalika still persisted to ask for more wealth. A man may be a miser or of low birth but he alone will be honoured who has immense wealth. Haven't you heard:

Friend, even though hanging loosely the two are attached firmly. I walked and walked behind them for long

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
watching intently whether they would fall or not. The man asked, "How was that? Somalika replied.

Tale–6 UNFRUITFUL WAIT

Theekshnavishana (Sharphorn) was a giant oxen. He was proud of his youth and strength. So he chose to live in a forest all alone. He enjoyed the lush green grass on the river slopes. He sauntered in the forest and the banks of the river bellowing loudly and upturning hillocks with his sharp horns. One day a jackal named Pralobhaka and his wife were waiting on the side of the river on the look out for prey. The bull came to the river for a drink. On seeing the loosely hanging heavy testicles of the bull, the she fox said: "Beloved, see the two balls of sumptuous flesh hanging loosely underneath the bull. They might fall down today or some days after. You follow him expecting their fall anytime and then we can have a tasty meal" The husband fox said: "O darling, one cannot be sure whether they would ever fall or not. Why do you enjoin me to this vain labour. If we remain here we may get a rat or two coming to the river for water. Again if we leave this vantage position, some one else might occupy this place. It won't look nice."

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush. It would be foolish to walk behind the bull. The she fox ridiculed her husband saying: "One who is satisfied with what he has is lazy and timid."

The energetic gains his goal
One should labour with tact
To earn wealth and happiness
People praise one with firm resolve
The chatak bird is adamant and
To him the chief of gods rains

Moreover, I am fed up with eating rat meat. The ball of flesh is sure to fall down from the bull. You must go behind

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitization Initiated by Kerala Academy
him. Otherwise you will be accused of having caused my death." The male fox was compelled to walk behind the bull to wherever he went. This walk continued for many years but the two balls remained fast bound to the udder of the bull. Finally the fox couple had to abandon their labor with despair writ large on their faces.

Tale –5 (continued)

The man continued: "If that is so, you return once more to Vardamana city. There you will meet with two traders named Gupthadana (Hiddenwelth) and Upabukthadana (Wealthenjoyer). There you make a study of their differing character and conduct. Then you can make your choice the life style of one or other." The man then vanished. Somalika was struck with amazement. He went back to the city. Weary with a long walk he reached the house of Hiddenwealth by sunset. He entered the house to the welcome of abusive words from the hosts. At night he was served a scanty and frugal meal. A coarse bedding was also provided for sleeping. In a hazy dream, he witnessed the two familiar figures talking. One said: "O Deity of works, you made Hiddenwealth to spend unnecessarily to feed the weaver. You did a wrong thing". The other man said: "Hi Deity of Fruits, there is no harm. What he did was a householder's duty to a guest who should never go to bed on an empty stomach. But you will witness the final denouement of the drama". Next morning Somalika left the house while the host Hiddenwealth had to suffer from a painful stomach. That day the trader had to resort to a fast for curing the ailment and thus compensated for the loss of money spent on the guest.

When Somalika approached the Wealth enjoyer's house, he was given a warm welcome with sweet words. With devotion he was treated with all the requirements of clothing and good food befitting an honoured guest. That

CC-0. Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

night when the weaver lay down in a soft bed, he once again espied the same two men engaged in conversation. One said: "O Deity of Works, the Wealthenjoyer spent much money on his guest. This amount he had borrowed today from another for meeting some urgent needs. Who will compensate the loss?" The other man said: "Hi Deity of Fruits of works, it is my duty to see that a guest is properly entertained. Now it is your turn to give the fruits of works. Wait till tomorrow to see how this would be done."

Next morning men from the royal palace came to the Wealthenjoyer and presented him with a gift of money from the king. Now when he witnessed these strange incidents, our weaver fell into a reverie: "Even though this Wealthenjoyer had no hoard of money with him he lived a happy life fulfilling all social obligations. I have seen with my own eyes how Providence came to his aid. But the miser Hiddenwealth led a miserable life and suffered from stomach trouble. I have decided to copy the example of Wealth-enjoyer by earning just enough for my daily bread and for giving charities to deserved people. Piling up wealth for its own sake is meaningless."

The tortoise said, "Therefore Hiranyaka, give up your grief over the loss of treasure. Unless we can enjoy it, heaped up wealth is of no use." The three intimate friends, the crow, the rat and the tortoise whiled away days in conversing among themselves. Then one day they saw the deer, Chitranga come running fast and panting for breath. Fearing some imminent danger, Lekhupatanaka flew on to a tree, Hiranyaka escaped into the nearest hole and Mantharaka dived into the lake. After carefully observing the behaviour and mannerisms of the newcomer, Lekhupatanaka opined: "Come out friend, Mantharaka, this deer seems to have come to the lake to quench his thirst." But Mantharaka who was more experienced in the ways of the world said, "No my mate,

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

this deer is seen to be taking long breaths and very often casts his eyes to his back. I don't think he scrambled for water but seems to be afraid of some chasing hunter." The deer agreeing with the turtle said, "Oh Mantharaka, you have judged my condition very well. A group of hunters had attacked and killed a number of my deer friends. I have just escaped their flying arrows. Please show me a safe place to hide." Mantharaka advised, "If that is so, you may go into the thick of the forest where the hunters cannot enter with ease." Meanwhile the crow who had gone on an reconnaissance mission, came back to tell that the hunters had left for their homes carrying plenty of deer meat. Now we are all free from the chasing hunters and we can assemble under the tree shade enjoying the cool breeze coming from the lake. That daytime the four friends sat telling tales and aphorisms.

As days and months passed the four had become thick friends and they found separation for long duration unbearable. And one day it happened that the deer Chitranga did not turn up for the friendly assembly. The other three got worried: "Has he been killed and eaten by some meat-eater in the forest? Or has he been caught in some hunter's net? Perhaps he would have fallen inadvertently into some deep gorge". Mantharaka said to the crow, "Comrade, myself and Hiranyaka are slow movers. Why not fly over the nearby areas to find out what has happened to our dear deer?" After a quick reconnaissance flight, the crow's eyes fell on the trapped Chitranga lying flat, enmeshed by a hunters net. He went near his friend and there he lay immobilized and all the while shedding tears. When he saw this friend Lekhupatanaka, he said, "My end is almost near. If I have wronged you knowingly or unknowingly I beg for your forgiveness. Please give me your last benediction. In the last moment of my present life, I only long for your friendship in the births to come." Lekhupatanaka said in a comforting tone

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

"Why do you become so hopeless when you have friends like us? I shall come back with Hiranyaka and Mantharaka. Don't be grieved."

The crow returned with the rat on his back and placed him near the deer snared in the hunter's net. On seeing him there flashed a glitter of life in the deer's mind. He said, "If one is to come out of danger he should cultivate good friends." Hiranyaka said, "Dear brother, how was it that an intelligent one like you got into the trap? Any how do not have fear from the hunter." Then on seeing the turtle coming towards them at snail's pace, Lekhupatanaka remarked: "This is not a good omen. If the hunter reaches here now, all our efforts will become futile. I can fly up and Hiranyaka can get into a nearby lair to escape. The hunter will take away the deer and turtle being a slow mover cannot save himself from the hunter's clutches. That would really be a tragedy." Hiranyaka said to the turtle, "Dear Mantharaka, you acted foolishly. Now hurry back." Mantharaka said, "I could not help coming because remaining far away, I was too worried about the ill-fate of our Chitranga. It is better to court death than to be separated from a friend. One is certain to get back a body in the next birth, but to gain a friend like you is very hard."

Whilst they were thus engaged in conversation, the dark and fierce looking hunter was seen coming with upraised bow stringed and drawn up to the ear lobe and arrow mounted. The rat in no time gnawed the net strings to make the deer free to run away. The crow flew to the treetop and the rat escaped to a nearby hole. The hunter was very disappointed at the escape of the deer. But then he saw the turtle moving slow before him. Even though the deer escaped from his net it was God's will that gave a tortoise for his day's bread. He caught and covered it with grass and then bound it to his bow and started for home.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The three remaining friends were very much distressed. Hiranyaka started lamenting, "Where can we get another companion like him? Every moment I am struck with the sharp arrow of anguish at the hard fate of our Mandaraka. First I had to part with my treasure, second my followers abandoned me, next I had to leave my native place and now the loss of a dear friend. Perhaps no creature could avoid the writing on its head. There is a saying,

Danger stalks every creature, the chest of wealth brittle,
Every meeting ends in parting, this is the destiny of all.

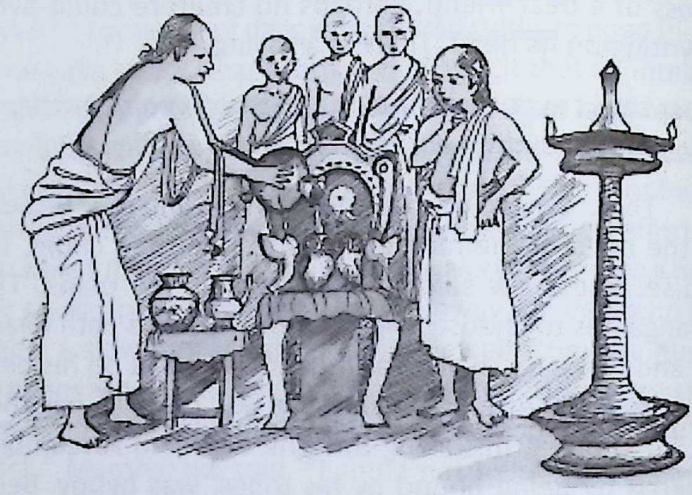
The crow and the deer now arrived and they decided that the need of the moment was to free their chum, the tortoise. The crow said, "I shall explain my plans. This Chitranga has to choose a spot on the hunter's path near a river and there he shall lie as if dead. I shall sit on his head and peck softly at him" Everything was done as per their plan. The hunter, mistaking that the deer had succumbed, shattered by being bound by his ropes, was happy. Being assured that the tortoise could not break away from its bonds, he placed it on the ground and ran after the body of the deer. Seeing his foe rushing towards him Chitranga rose up and ran away. Meanwhile the tortoise, whose knots had been snapped by the rat, dived into the water. The crow and the rat also sought their refuges. When the hunter returned he could not find the tortoise. Cursing his ill luck he returned home. When their enemy disappeared at a distance the crow, Lekhupatanaka, the deer, Chitranga, the turtle Mantharaka, and the rat, Hiranyaka assembled to celebrate their deliverance. They went to their original homes at the lakeside and lived in ideal friendship.

(Here ends PANCHANTANTRA Second Tactics – Winning Friends)

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

THIRD TACTICS

THE CROW AND THE OWL



Consecration of the day-blind Owl as the king of feathered fraternity

THIRD TACTICS [THE CROW AND THE OWL]

The prefacing verse of the third tactics called, "The Crow and the Owl" is

Don't take into confidence
One who has turned a foe
So too put no faith in an enemy
Who did become a friend
It is said that crows
Once busted the haven of Owl.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

On the outskirts of the city of Mahilaropya in the southern parts of the country there stood a giant peepul tree with many branches thick with leaves. On this tree resided the crow chief Meghavarna (Darkcoloured) with his teeming aids and followers. Not very far off was a mountain where the owl king Arimardhana (Foetorturer) with legion subjects has taken shelter in its caves.

The crows and owls are inborn enemies. Every night, the owl king with a large army came to the peepul tree where they attacked the crows without mercy and killed many. This onslaught continued for days together and the crow chief was deeply troubled.

He called the meeting of his ministers and chief advisors for consultations. He addressed them, "Friends, the strong and cruel enemy comes in big flock to destroy our people. They exploit our inability to retaliate at night. We are not aware of where he has built his fort. So we are not able to mount an attack on him during daytime. Under the circumstances what policy should we adopt – to make peace, to run away, play tricks on him, making friendship – which alternative should we choose.. Give me your considered views".

Now Meghavarna had five hereditary ministers. They were Ujeevi, Samjeevi, Anujeevi, Prajeevi and Chiramjeevi. The minister Ujeevi said, "Lord, our adversary is strong and heinous. He is adept in choosing his time and mode of attack. I think we can save our people by making peace with him." The second minister Sanjeevi opined, "Your majesty, I don't think we should make peace with him. He is cruel, greedy and devilish. Moreover, we now stand defeated. Any talk of peace would be taken as weakness and would only inflame him. So we should engage him in a fierce fight and overcome him."

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Now the crow chief turned to Anujeevi for his views and asked, "What in your opinion is the best course for us?" He replied, "Your majesty, our foe is evil-minded, hard-hearted and unscrupulous. Neither war nor peace with him is advisable. It is better to flee from here". Another minister Prajeevi said, "War or peace or taking to wings is no real solution under present circumstances. It is better to make our fortifications stronger, fix machines of war on the walls, and station heroic fighters to guard our positions with constant vigil. In case we come out victorious we shall enjoy opulent kingdom. If we fall fighting, heavens are assured for us. This tactics is called remaining steadfast in our refuge." The fifth minister Chiramjeevi said, "Lord, please listen to my words. Even for one who is very clever, intelligent and energetic help from friends and well-wishers is to be sought. A flame in a windless place cannot flourish. Therefore I would advise you to stay put here and secure help from able friends to overcome dangers. If now we abandon this place and go to unfamiliar lands, we can never hope to get reliable people to help us."

Meghavarna having listened to the differing views expressed by his ministers now addressed the old ex-minister of his forefathers, "Revered Sthirajeevi, you are well versed in all sciences. You have heard my five ministers offering their counsels in order to overcome our present difficulties. Now kindly give me your point of view on the issue before us". Sthirajeevi said, "Lord, the counsels rendered by your ministers are all in consonance with various state policies and therefore all valid. But in our present situation some piece of double dealing cannot be avoided. Our foe is both strong and fiendish. Hence at times we have to show the white flag of truce and at other times engage him in wordy and actual fight. Do not put too much faith in him and at the same time we should pretend friendship with him. We should

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
sow the seed of discord among them and exploit their weakness. We should employ skillful and clever spies to find out the location of his fortress and details about his preparedness to defend the shelter."

Our crow chieftain Meghavarna asked his old minister: "Father, can you tell me the reasons for the present inveterate enmity between the owl and crow." Sthirajeevi gave a detailed answer to his king's query. "Son, once the winged fraternity, the swan and the parrot, the crane and the owl, the peacock and the nightingale all assembled to discuss the common threat to them from the hunter. Garuda, Vinatha's son is their acknowledged leader. But being engaged as the vehicle of Lord Vishnu, the supreme Godhead, he hardly finds time to look after their welfare. Everyday the hunter brings large scale destruction to the winged friends. Therefore they should choose one among them to look after their interests." After a thorough discussion of all the aspects, one name secured a consensus approval for the high position. They decided to enthrone the pretty looking owl as king. Preparations were soon started for the investiture ceremony. Waters from all the sacred rivers were brought in golden vessels for ritual ablution. Medicinal plants were collected and put into the water-filled vessels. A golden gemstudded throne engraved with picture of the earth surrounded by the seven seas so as to indicate the new sovereign's jurisdiction was placed on a well-decorated dais. The owl was led by a large army of birds and was seated on it. His queen Krikali was brought in procession of lamp-bearing young women and was seated near her lord and king. Vedic chants by brahmin priests started to initiate and solemnize the ceremony.

In the meantime a crow came flying and landed there. He approached the assembly and said, "Oh mates, why is this big crowd and rituals going on here?" They replied: "Friend, don't you know that we, the bird folk has no defacto

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

king to protect us. Hence we have unanimously elected this owl as our king. We are about to crown him as our leader. Now that you have come in right time, and you are wise enough, let us hear your views also". The crow with sarcastic smile said, "I know that we have in this assembly birds handsome and ripe in wisdom. But tell me why you have chosen this day-blind fierce-looking owl to occupy this august throne when more competent and deserving ones like the peacock and the royal swan are present here.

Even when not a slave of passion
This owl has squint-eye and arched-nose
How much more fierce and ugly
Would he look on losing temper.

Nobody more unworthy to the throne of the great Garuda can be elected than this day-blind owl. If only one utters the very name of our reigning lord, the foe will take to heels ensuring our welfare. Haven't you heard how the rabbits were saved by the Moon god.

To their question, "How was that?" the crow replied.

Tale 1

MENTION OF A GREAT NAME ENSURES PEACE

In the midst of a thick jungle lived a tusker chief Chaturdunta (Fourtusked) and a large herd of followers. Once rains failed for a number of years and there was not a drop of water to drink or a blade of grass to eat. Unable to endure the famine, the elephants approached their chief and said, "Lord, with no water and food, our folk are dying in large numbers. Many are on the verge of death. Let us move to some place where food and water are available". Chaturdunta sat musing for a long time and then said, "Friends, far away from here, I remember to have seen a large lake abounding in water. We will move immediately in search of water. But

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
remember that it is a long and arduous journey. But it is worth to take the risk than live in this arid place". Under the guidance of the chief, the large herd of elephants walked and walked without stopping for some four to five days. At last they were welcomed by the cooling sight of a big expanse of water ornamented by blossoming lotus flowers. They shouted for joy and plunged into the water, and drank to their full. They swam, dived and played with spraying water on one another. By evening they came ashore for nights rest. This continued day after day.

On the lake shore in a charming place there dwelt a big flock of hares without trouble from outside. The arrival of the elephants disturbed their peace. Many innocent animals were trampled upon by the rushing feet of the elephants. Many died and many were left maimed. The rest of the hares assembled to discuss ways and means to end the elephant menace. One said, "Dire drought conditions have affected large areas. The elephants are not likely to leave us in peace and tranquility. I think we better quit this place and seek asylum somewhere else". Another said, "No, it is not right. This had been our homeland from a hoary past and it is foolish to forsake this inherited land. We would rather use some trick to threaten these big brothers to make them leave this place.

A serpent without poison fang
Still can raise its hood
To frighten the enemy
And make him run.

A third hare opined, "We shall play some ingenious method to make the enemy to abandon this place. Our lord, the rabbit Vijayadutta has his residence on the orb of moon god. If we make the elephant chief believe that the Moon God has debarred their frequenting his lake we might escape from more trouble from the elephants. We can send our

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
Lambakarna (Longears) as messenger from the Moon and deliver a phoney message to this effect. He is wise and clever enough to successfully manage such an errand."

Lambakarna went to seek out Chaturdunta and deliver the missive of the God to him. He stationed himself on a high mound to watch the elephants coming up in the evening. It was darkening all round and Lambakarna called out aloud as the tusker chief was passing; "You devil Chaturdunta, how dare you enter Moon God's lake without taking permission. This is not a silly matter. It would be better to run away if you have fear of life". The elephant chief said, "Whose voice am I hearing from above". Lambakarna said, "I am Vijayadutta, the hare living in Moon and the great God has sent me as his messenger to give you a warning. I am confidant of the deity". Chaturdunta was amazed and he said, "Deliver the God's message and I promise to abide by his orders". The hare said, "For days on your people had been crushing under feet the hares living on the lake shore. Why didn't you know that these poor creatures are my subjects? So, if you value your life, make your immediate exit from here. This is the sublime edict from the God." The elephant chief with quivering voice said, "Where is your Lord now?" Lambakarna replied, "The God has come to the lake in order to pacify his people. It is from there that I am sent to you." "If so, please take me to the God. There I shall pay homage to him and then depart from here for ever." said the elephant chief. Lambakarna said, "You come alone with me and I shall show him to you." Later in the night, Lambakarna took the tusker leader to near the lake waters. There in the midst of the lake, Chaturdunta witnessed the charming reflection of the full moon shining in all splendour. The rabbit said, "Now bow before the God and make your exit quickly. Do not disturb his meditation on any account. " Shaking with fear, the tusker bowed to the God in all reverence and abandoned the place along with his retinue.

In Public Domain. Digitized by Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The crow continued, "One who is low-born, who is lazy, who is ingratitude itself and who showers abusive words at another's back, is not fit for kingship.

A base-minded mediator
Is not to be relied upon
It will result in ruin of both
As happened to rabbit and partridge.

"How was that" they asked. The crow replied

Tale 2 Deception with a holy visage

I had my nest on a big tree. Down below in a hollow of the same tree a partridge named Kapinjala had its residence. We were good friends and we led a happy life engaged in conversing about various topics and narrating stories and aphorisms. Then one day the bird left the place without informing me. The sun sank over the western horizon, but the partridge did not come back. I was a bit scared on her fate. The next day and then for days together she did not return. I sat brooding over her absence and suspected that she might have fallen into some danger.

Then one day a hare, Seegraka (swift mover) came jumping and finding a vacant hole on the tree, he occupied it without asking anybody. I also did not notice the coming of the animal. Some days passed without any incident. One day my partridge friend appeared fat and plumb with eating sumptuously nutritious corn. She rebuked the hare for trespassing on her home without her knowledge and asked him to quit immediately. But the rabbit was non-chalant and challenged her claims of ownership of the tree hollow. He said, "I have been residing here for some time and law books have accepted my right of ownership.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Once abandoned nobody
Has claim of ownership
Over a tank, well or tree
Hence be off without blabbering.

This principle of occupancy rights has been accepted by customs and by scriptures. The partridge said in reply, "Since you quote the authority of scriptures for your misdeed, let us approach a learned one to settle our dispute. We will both accept his verdict."

The two parties went in search of a scholar. I was curious about the final outcome of the dispute and followed them. They reached a river bed where a wild cat who was unnoticed witness to their disputations was seen engaged in severe penance standing on one leg half raised, eyes closed and hands upraised. The bird and the rabbit heard with rapt attention to his preaching sermons. The wild cat, Theekshna Damshtra (Sharptooth) said,

How fickle are earthly pleasures
Men come, see and then depart
As in a sudden vanishing dream
Death follows his footsteps like own shadow
Therefore always lead a righteous life

The two disputants were impressed by the words of wisdom of the saintly cat. The hare said, "Hi partridge, he is a truly learned man who is capable of mediating in our dispute. Let us seek his advice. "But the bird cautioned. "No, it won't do. He is a natural enemy to both of us. We need not disturb his penance." But the hare shouted from a distance, "Holy sir, a quarrel has arisen between us two. We humbly request you to mediate in our litigation and give us a just verdict. The one who lies will become your food". Sharptooth said, "Son, you can put faith in me. I don't wish to enter the hell by committing acts of violence. Non-injury has the sanction of religious books. I shall help you to solve your

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
problem. But you must understand that I am too old to hear you from a distance. Come nearer and tell me your arguments in my ears. Don't be frightened". The wicked cat was able to earn the confidence of the hare and the partridge. They came and sat near him. There was no more delay in catching the hare in his sharp claws and the poor bird with his sharp teeth and swallowing both.

The crow continued: "Friends, why do you make all haste to enthrone this dirty owl as our king and bring dishonour to the feathered fraternity." The others finding that there was truth in the crow's words, immediately flew away without waiting to attend the ceremonies. Only the owl king and his chief queen and the crow were left there. Now realizing that crow had been responsible to prevent his becoming the king of birds, the owl vouched eternal enmity between the two species which is continuing to this day. Then the owl couple went off to their shelter.

The crow was left alone to meditate on the incidents of the day. He regretted that he had crossed the bounds of decent behaviour and unnecessarily precipitated unremitting hatred between the two classes of winged kind. He expressed his grief thus:

One shouldn't utter uncouth words
At all times and all places
Reprobate talk is like poison
It kills the talker and listener.
Even a mighty man should not
Make other people enemies
Who will dare to consume poison
Even when the physician is nearby
A wise man should never act
Without consulting friends
And without proper thought
Then the crow also left the scene.

CC-0. Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Sthirajeevi continued, "Over and above the six strategies described previously, there is one more tactics which is very effective in state craft. I shall make myself a tool for working out this deception on the foe and help to bring victory to your lordship.

Skilful and experienced men can by tricks checkmate even a mighty rival. Some rascals duped a poor Brahmin of a goat in his possession.

"How was that?" asked Meghavarna for which the reply was

Tale–3 LIES REPEATED APPEARS TO BE TRUE

In a village there lived a poor brahmin with name Mitrasharma with his wife. One day he received a fat goat as a gift from a rich man in a neighbouring village. Placing the animal on his shoulders the brahmin walked back to his house. Three rogues standing on the roadside saw him coming and they hatched a plot to defraud the brahmin off the goat. One of them taking a short cut appeared before the poor fellow and said, "Holy sir, why do you act against the customs of your high caste by carrying on your shoulders a dirty dog?" The brahmin got cross and he said, "You fool, are you blind to mistake a goat for a dog. I am sure that this is only a goat." The rascal said, " I am sorry. You have every right to hold your own opinion." The brahmin walked ahead for some distance when the second scoundrel confronting him said, " O pious brahmin, it is really unbecoming of your high birth to carry the carcass of a calf on your sacred shoulders." The poor man was enraged and he retorted, "You are an idiot. I know this is only a live goat and not a dead calf." The other said humbly, "Sir, I might have been mistaken because of my ignorance. Do what you like." The brahmin

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
with the goat on his shoulders covered some more distance. Then he saw another man approaching. This third rogue addressing the Brahmin said, "Shame! Shame! Why do your sacred self carry a donkey on your shoulders! Leave it here before somebody else see this debasing act." Now the brahmin was really perplexed and thought that what he was carrying must be some goblin which could change shapes at will. He put down the animal and went home. The three rascals had a good feast with the goat meat.

Sthirajeevi again said, "An enemy may be small and weak, but in large numbers they can put to death a strong hooded serpent."

" How was that?" asked Meghavarna. The other said.

Tale – 4 UNION IS STRENGTH

Inside a mole-hill standing at the foot of a tree, there lived a big black cobra named Adidarpa (Highboaster). His upraised hood was terrifying. One day as he came out of his lair through a narrow exit his fat body got bruised and a little and blood trickled out. Sensing the smell of blood, ants came to suck blood from his body. Beating with his strong tail he crushed a number of these insignificant insects. But now ants came in large numbers and began to cling to the serpent's body to taste blood. The whole body of the big cobra was soon covered with a myriad ants. The cobra Adidarpa became helpless against them and finally succumbed to their pressure.

The old ex-minister Sthirajeevi resumed, " I shall give details of one more tactics for which your majesty may lend his ears. Do now reproach me in harsh words, then smear my body with some blood and abandon me at the foot of the peepul tree. Next you lead your followers to that far off

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

mountains and there live in peace and security. I shall deceive the enemy spies with some concocted stories about my expulsion and try to win the confidence of their chief. My aim is to gather all information about their fortress and pass it on to you. Since the foe is blind during the day, you can choose an opportune time to strike at him without warning. You need not worry about me. Since you had been my saviour and sustainer, I consider it my duty to sacrifice my life, if needed, in order to safeguard the life and property of my kinsfolk. Do not turn down my proposals" Next Sthirajeevi and Meghavarna started a sham quarrel between them. Observing this, the king's bodyguards tried to attack the exminister with all strength. But the crow king prevented them saying, "He is a spy and friend of our enemy and I shall personally see that he is expelled from our midst with dishonour." Meghavarna pecked softly on his old minister, stained his body with blood and pushed him out to lie at the base of the tree. The king and his retinue then left and flew to the mountain ranges and settled there.

Now Krikalika was one of the owl scouts who observed the incidents in the crow camp. He reported to his king Arimardana the exile in disgrace of the erstwhile minister. The owl chief lost no time and soon at sunset came rushing to mount an onslaught on the enemy camp. A large army of owls surrounded the peepul tree which sheltered the crows. But disappointed in not finding even a trace of his foes, the owl chief flew up and sat on a branch.

Sthirajeevi, now finding that the most opportune moment has come, announced his presence with cries of 'Ka. Ka'. The owls immediately launched out against him. Then the crow with folded palms said, "Hi friends, I was a counselor to the crow chief Meghavarna. My name is Sthirajeevi. My own king has reduced me to this sad state. Go and tell your king that I have many confidential information

In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

to be conveyed to him". The owl retainers of king Arimardana reported to him the news about the crow minister. The owl chief came down to sit near the ex-minister to the crow king. He asked, "Hey, what has happened to you, tell me the truth frankly". Sthirajeevi said, "Lord listen to me. You and your folk had been tormenting and slaying crows in large numbers. Unable to remain a mute witness to the travails of his own kith and kin, Meghavarna wanted to assail your fortifications and take retributive action. I wished to caution by saying that it was not a wise design without assessing the strength of the enemy. A powerless party should not even think of retaliation against a strong antagonist. I advised my king to shower praises and gifts on you and sue for peace. He scouted my sane counsels and threw me out in a fit of rage. Now I leave it to your lordship to decide on further course. I request you to give me protection at your feet. As soon as I regain strength, I promise to lead you to his new hide out where you can use everything in your power to decimate your enemies."

Arimardana had five ministers with names Rakthaksha (Red eye), Cruraksha (Cruel eye), Deepthaksha (Flaming eye), Vakranasa (Curved nose) and Prakarakarna (Wallear) to whom he turned for advice. The king said, "Oh Redeye, we have in our hold a former minister of our foe. Now tell me what should we do with him?" He replied, "What is there to think? Kill him at once. Haven't you heard,

Look at the flaming funeral fire
And this my bruised hood
Friendship once shattered
Cannot be revived that is certain.

To the question, "How was that?" by Arimardana, the minister said.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 5 AVARICE SPELLS DANGER

There lived a farmer named Haridutta. Year after year his crops failed and he was much grieved. One day at noon in order to escape the summer heat, he sought refuge under a tree shade. Sleep overcame and he had a short nap. When he opened eyes and looked round, a big molehill and as if holding an umbrella over it the terrifying hood of a huge snake came to his sight. He began to muse, "Why did I fail to notice the Deity of farm earlier and pay homage to him? Perhaps this might be the reason for successive crop failure. From today I decide to offer worship to the god." He got some milk from a neighbour and placed it on a plate before the cobra and prayed, "Oh protector of the fields, I did not notice your presence earlier. Please accept my offering and grant me boons." He went back home. Next morning he came to the mole-hill and was surprised to see on the plate a Dinar gold coin. He was happy. This milk offering continued day after day. Every day he was blessed with one gold coin.

Then one day the farmer had to go on a journey. He entrusted his son the duty of the daily milk offering to the Deity of farm. The boy did as was instructed. He too was amazed to find unexpectedly a gold coin in the milk plate. Then he started to reason himself: "I think this mole-hill must be full of gold coins. If I kill the cobra, I could collect a large number of gold coins at one strike." In the evening when he came with the milk, he had a thick stick also. After placing the milk in front of the cobra, he struck hard on its head. Unfortunately for the boy, the serpent escaped death. It bit the boy injecting deadly venom into him. The boy died on the spot. The relatives lit up a funeral pyre for him near his father's field. When the father came back, the news of his son's tragic end sank him in deep sorrow and remorse. He told his relatives

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Treat a creature kindly
Which seeks asylum
Otherwise one will suffer
Like swans in king's pond.
They queried, "How was that?" He replied.

Tale 6 SELFISHNESS IS SELF- DEFEATING

The king Chitraratha owned a big lake in which bloomed lotus flowers in large numbers. In it there were swans which shed one golden feather every six months. Then one day another big golden swan came to live in the pond. The original inhabitants raised objection to the new comer staying there. He went to the king and complained. "Lord, the swans living in your pond does not allow me to share it with them. They say that the lake belongs to them and your majesty has no power to take action against them." The king was enraged and he ordered that all the swans in the pond be killed immediately. The soldiers came to the lake with sticks in hand. An old swan saw this and said that their life was in danger and he asked all the residents to flee. This they did thus losing their haven forever.

(Tale 5 – continued)

Next day Haridutta once more went to pay respects to the serpent deity with milk in hand. He extolled the deity in plaintive tone. The cobra sitting inside the mole-hill said. "You have come again moved by greed without the least pity for your deceased son. We can no more be friends. Your hotblooded son lashed me with a stick and I can never forgive it. I killed your boy and you would never pardon me. Come no more here." The cobra then appeared with a precious stone on head and gifted to the farmer. Haridutta went back home reviling his foolish son's action.

 In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Redeye said, "Finish off the enemy in your custody and live happily."

The owl chief asked his second minister Crueleye, "What is your view? "He said, "Lord, the advice of my colleague is a bit inhuman. It is sin to take life of one who had prayed for protection at king's feet. Haven't you heard,

Even a foe seeking refuge
Should be welcomed cordially
A dove offered his own flesh
To the hunter, his bitter enemy

"How was that?" queried the chief. The other said.

Tale 7 A GUEST IS GOD NEEDING WORSHIP

A hideous looking bird hunter was stalking through a dense forest when an ill-fated innocent she-dove fell into his hands. He shut her up in a cage. Suddenly a fierce storm and torrential rains started. It was all dark. The hunter walked almost blind-folded and at last he somehow reached under a spreading tree. Placing the cage on the floor, he prayed to the forest deities to help him find succour from cold and hunger. Now on one branch of the tree a he-dove was sitting. His dear mate who had left that morning in search of food had not returned at this late hour. He was much distressed about the fate of his life-partner. He started to lament on his long separation from his devoted house-wife.

A house without mistress
Is no home at all
A life without ones dear
Is a life in the desert
My dear and devoted wife
Is my most precious wealth

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The she-dove trapped in the hunter's cage was moved to tears by the wailing of her husband. She felt happy that she was so dear to him. But she was much grieved that she could not properly welcome the hunter who had come as a guest in her home. She looked up and addressing her lord she said, "My dear, this bird-hunter has come as an honoured guest to our house at this late hour. It is sin not to entertain him as a god-like guest. Do not entertain any malice towards him who has caged-in your dear wife. Poverty or imprisonment one suffers as the fruit of ones past deeds. Nobody has to be blamed for that. I pray that you entertain this hunter with fire to remove his cold and food to allay his hunger thus showing all devotion to a guest". Hearing this heart moving message from his dear, the he-dove came down and said to the hunter, "Respected sir, I shall do all in my power to help you." He then flew and soon returned with a live coal in his beak. He gathered some dry sticks and leaves and blew up a fire. Then addressing the hunter once more, he said, "Sir, we gather our daily food and don't keep anything back for the morrow. At home we don't have any food to offer to you. I shall sacrifice my small body to quench your hunger." So saying, the he-dove jumped into the fire to become meat for his enemy. The hard heart of the hunter was touched by extreme remorse at the self-sacrifice of this little bird. He said to himself: "What a sinner am I to take so many lives for my selfish ends. I am sure to enter hell after death. One thing I have decided is to lead a life of no harm to other lives and not indulge in material pleasures. I shall emaciate this body with severe fasting and penance. I shall engage myself in righteous deeds hereafter." Then he opened the cage and freed the she-dove. She was much grieved by the self-immolation of her husband and she prayed to the gods to make her the consort of such noble husband in her next birth. She then fell into the fire to follow him. The hunter became indifferent to life and he entered the thick forest to do

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
penance. One day he sacrificed his body in a forest fire. He obtained the heavenly worlds as reward for his righteous life.

The owl chief now questioned his other minister Flamingeye who said, "Lord, this crow should not be killed. He may be a cheat, but he is capable of doing good to us. Therefore his welfare should be taken care of since he has sought refuge at your feet. He has been estranged from his fellows since he has been ill-treated by them".

Having listened to these words, Arimardana asked the minister Vakranasa to offer his views. He said, "Your Highness, I would advice you to slay this crow. Rivals quarrel among themselves in order to serve selfish interests like the thief and the ghost."

"How was that?" asked the king for which the reply was

Tale 8 - QUARREL BETWEEN RIVALS SPELLS DOOM FOR BOTH

There lived a poor brahmin named Drona who made a living on small gifts and charities of the villagers. One day a richman presented two calves to him. The calves were fed with milk and corn and in course of time grew up to young healthy cows. Now, a thief who had a covetous eye on these animals was proceeding one night to Drona's house to whisk them off. On the way he came face to face with a grotesque fiend with sharp teeth, crooked nose, red eyes, hollow cheeks and yellowish red body colour. At first the thief was frightened, but he asked, "Who are you and where do you go?" The dwarf-sized fiend replied, "I am a demon. Now let me have your acquaintance." The thief said, "I am a thief. My name is Crurakarma (Crueldeed) and I am on way to steal Drona's two cows." The ghost said, "I have taken a vow of taking

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
food only once in three days. I have decided to make Drona my repast for the day. Now we two are of one mind in persecuting the brahmin."

The two reached the vicinity of Drona's house and waited for an opportune moment to execute their respective designs. When they felt certain that the poor Brahmin was sound asleep, the fiendish dwarf moved forward to devour his victim. The thief stalled the other's attempt saying, "No not so; first I shall do the cow lifting and then you can pounce upon the brahmin. Otherwise if something happens in between unexpectedly and the brahmin wakes up in the meantime, I will be a loser." But the ghost objected saying, "When you try to steal the cows, they might make distress sound and wake up the brahmin. Then I will have to go hungry. There ensued a wordy duel, 'I first, I first' between the robber and the dwarf ghost. The squabble became more and more noisy. The brahmin woke up and came out to see what was all the noise about. The thief said, "Holy sir, this ghost wanted to make a meal of you." The ghost countered, "Sir, here is a thief who wanted to rob you of the two cows". The brahmin chanted occult mantras and threw a spell on the ghost which turned into ashes. Then he raised a big stick and thrashed the thief and made him flee. Thus the wordy quarrels between two rivals saved the life of the poor brahmin.

The owl king now turned to the minister Wallear for his opinion. He said, "The life of this crow should be spared and we should live with him in mutual confidence. Haven't you heard,

One should learn the strength and weakness of the other. Otherwise death is certain as in the case of the serpent in the mole-hill. " Then he gave the story in detail.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 9 TRUTH FINALLY PREVAILS

The king Devasakthi had a handsome son. Somehow a snake got into the prince's stomach and was getting nourished there. As a result the boy got emaciated day by day by inanition and lost all good looks. The royal physicians did everything they knew but failed to cure the boy. The prince got desperate and lost all interest in life. One day he abandoned home and went to live elsewhere. He made a living by begging and took shelter in a deserted temple.

Now Bali was the chief of a nearby city. He had two young and charming daughters. One day they came to pay respects to their father. Bowing at his feet, the elder said, "Victory to the king. With your grace I am enjoying all life's pleasures." The second girl, however, said, "One enjoys or suffers according to his or her deserts." The king got angry at the indiscretion of the second daughter and ordered that she be given in marriage to some beggar. The king's men took her out and gave her in marriage to the beggar prince residing in the lonely temple. She accepted her fate in the right spirit and rendered devoted service to her husband. The couple left the place to live in another land.

One day leaving her sick husband on the outskirts of a town, she went to buy provisions from the city market. As she was returning to him, she witnessed a strange sight near a mole-hill where her prince was sleeping. The cobra inside his belly thrust its head through his open mouth to take nourishment from the air. At the same time, a cobra residing inside the mole-hill put out its hood. The two rival cobras now faced each other and began to hiss in anger. The mole hill serpent said, "You rascal, why do you live inside this handsome prince and torment him". With equal venom, the other serpent sand, "Oh scoundrel, you are keeping watch over two potfulls of gold coins inside the mole-hill and befoul them." The belly- snake got excited with anger and said, "You

are a fool to think that none knows the way to destroy you. If only the prince drinks sour old rice soup boiled with mustard seed, you are finished." The resident serpent inside the prince retorted. "I certainly know that if boiled water or oil is poured over you, your death is certain." The princess who was listening to the conversation lost no time to administer mustard seeds boiled in sour rice soup to the prince and to kill the parasite cobra inside. She then poured boiling water on the mole-hill cobra and destroyed it. The prince became hale and healthy. They took out the two pots filled with gold coins from inside the mole-hill. Then the royal couple went to his father's kingdom where they were accorded a rousting welcome. They lived happily thereafter.

Having heard all the views expressed by his ministers, Arimardana finally decided to give the crow Sthirajeevi patronage under his wings. But the wise owl minister Rakthaksha (Red-eye) again expressed his dissenting opinion.

Where the unworthy is reverenced
And the deserving discarded
There poverty, fear and death rule
A king who listens to unwise counsels
Loses everything he possesses

But his words did not receive due consideration. Under king's orders, the men lifted the 'wounded' Sthirajeevi to the fortress of the owls. On the way he was giving shape to future plans and he concluded that his appropriate seat is at the entrance of owl's bastion. He said to the owl chief, "Lord, I am considered as your born enemy and so I don't deserve to live in the middle portion of the fort. I may be allowed to remain near the entrance so that the holy dust from your majesty's feet be smeared on my body to make me free from sin." This request of Sthirajeevi was accepted and he began to live in the vantage position he had aimed at. The new

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
guest was served with sumptuous meal of nourishing meat daily. In quick time, he regained his health and strength.

The minister Rakthaksha who had a better insight into the ways of the world once again expressed his misapprehensions about entertaining the enemy agent in their own camp. He once more warned the king and other ministers." ' This Sthirajeevi is an evil with foul intentions. Have you not heard,

'I am a fool by birth, then this hunter is an idiot, but the king and his ministers are a bunch of bumpkins'.

To their query, "How was that?" he replied

Tale 10 THINK BEFORE ACTING

Simbuka was a bird which dropped golden feces. One day while a hunter was passing, it dropped golden dung. He tied a net at the base of the tree on which the bird nested and one day it was trapped in the net. The bird-catcher shut the bird in a cage and took it home. He started to think, "During my long experience in bird catching, I have never seen or heard about a bird giving out golden droppings. Now, if somebody cares to report about this wonder to the king, he might confiscate the bird and then punish me for not informing the authorities about this." The hunter lost peace of mind and could not get proper sleep even.

He took the caged Simbuka to the palace and gifted it to the king. The king could not believe his eyes and ears when he was told that the bird's excrement was golden. He ordered his men to take the bird in and maintain it in good condition. But one of the ministers refused to give credence to the hunter's fairy tale. He said, "Lord, nobody in this wide world has heard of or seen a bird which emitted golden feces. I request your majesty not to give an iota of faith in the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

hunter's words. The bird may be let off." Without giving any more thought, under royal fiat the cage was opened and Simbuka released. The bird flew up and seated on the top of the palace gate, it dropped golden excrement in the front of the king and the courtiers. Then it left the palace singing, "I am a born fool, the hunter is an idiot and the ministers are a batch of bumpkins."

The owl chief did not pay heed to these words of foresight from Rakthaksha who assembling his intimate followers said ."The future of our leader and of this our safe habitat is doomed for a tragic end. We would rather get away from this place to go and live somewhere else. Have you not heard,

"I have been living to this ripe age but I have never known that a cave could talk"

"How was that?" asked they. The reply was

Tale 11. KNOWLEDGE REMOVES FEAR

There lived in the forest a lion named Kharanakhara (Hard claw). One day he roamed in vain to get a prey and when the sun was setting, he entered a vacant mountain cave. The forest king remained inside expecting the original resident to certainly come in after it gets dark. After an hour the jackal, Dadipucha came to the cave door and very closely examined the surroundings. His keen eyes detected footprints of a lion going into the cave, but not leaving. He sat musing, "Ah, I am done for. The lion is inside. What shall I do now"? He thought of a plan and howled aloud, "Hey, mountain cave". He repeated the call. But no response came. Then the fox said," Mr. Cavern, don't you remember our mutual contract. You had promised to utter words of welcome when I come at your entrance in the evening. If you don't speak to me, I shall abandon you for ever." Listening to the words of the fox, the

Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

lion thought, "One thing is certain. When he returned every evening, the fox used to get words of greeting from the cave. This time the cave refuses to speak because it is afraid of my presence. Now I shall sound welcome myself and then the fox would enter the cave". The forest king roared words of welcome, which shook the whole jungle. The other animals trembled with fear. The fox ran away singing.

When source of fear is known
One becomes happy and fearless
If one does not know
He will live in fear and sorrow.
I have lived here long enough
But never heard a cave speak.

Rakthaksha and his friends flew away for safety.

Now Sthirajeevi was happy that the stumbling block had been removed with the exit of the wise old minister. He could make and execute his plan to hoodwink the king and the owls. From then on during day time he would go out from the owls den, gather pieces of wood and tree branches and bring them to be stocked near the fort. The foolish owls did not suspect that these wood pieces were to be used for burning their nests. To the inquisitive few Sthirajeevi explained that these were collected for building a home for himself.

One day after sunrise, taking advantage of the blindness of the owls, Sthirajeevi flew to the mountain shelter of Meghavarna and his followers. He addressed the king saying, "Lord, I have completed all preparations including a stockpile of dry wood in order to burn down the enemy fort. Along with your entourage your majesty may fly to the place where the owls are camping. Each crow should carry live coal in his beak and throw at the wood pieces I have stocked. You can well imagine what would happen next". Meghavarna

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

shed tears of joy and said, " Father, I don't know how to thank you. Now tell me the whole story of your life among the foes." But Sthirajeevi cautioned him that this was not the time to sit and talk. He said, "Act quickly as I suggest so that the enemy could not escape the doomsday. Otherwise all our labours will be in vain. After we finish off our foes we can find plenty of leisure for detailing my experiences in the enemy camp." Meghavarna issued a dictate and fixed a time frame to execute the plan of burning down the enemy fortress. The command was carried out correct to every detail. Flames were seen reaching great heights and the owls screamed in distress trying to fly out. But being daytime all the blindfolded owls fell into the flame and were torched to ashes. The crows under the leadership of Meghavarna returned to their former nests on the peepul tree.

Then one day seated on the golden throne presiding over his council of ministers and other advisors, the crow king Meghavarna asked his old minister Sthirajeevi, "Father, how did you pass your time among our foes. We are curious to know the details. We know

"Spending even a little time with enemies is more dangerous than jumping into flaming fire."

Sthirajeevi said, "Very true. Servants suffer immediate troubles in the hope of future benefits.

Even the strong and wise would patiently bear harsh abuses of mean fellows in expectation of a good morrow" Meghavarna said, "Father, it is more dangerous to live among the enemies than to sit under Democle's Sword. " Sthirajeevi said, "Except Rakthaksha, all other ministers of Arimardana were idiots. The wise minister advised the king, "A servant of the enemy who pretends to wrangle with his people should be considered as enemy spy". But one whose end is imminent shuts his ears against sane counsels. Therefore when

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
Rakthaksha deserted his kin, I considered it as my good fortune.

A wise one should be prepared even to carry enemies on own shoulders abiding his day. Acting in this manner, a big cobra devoured many frogs.

Meghavarna asked, "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 12

FEIGN SERVILITY TO SERVE SELF- INTEREST

In the proximity of Varuna hills there resided Mandavisha an aged black cobra. Realising that he was no more capable of catching frogs for food, he went and stood on a lakeshore very sad. A frog which was hopping towards the lake noticed him and approaching him with caution, said," Uncle, why don't you take efforts to catch prey today'. The cobra said, 'Son, I have been forbidden from catching frogs by a curse. One night as I was wandering in search of food, I happened to sight a frog. Seeing me, it was frightened and soon disappeared among some brahmins engrossed in religious rites. I could not get any trace of the creature. Then near the shore of the lake, I saw the toe of a brahmin boy under water and mistaking it for a frog, I bit it. The boy fell dead immediately. Unable to bear sorrow at the death of his son, the brahmin priest cast a curse on me. "Oh wicked one, your poison caused the untimely death of my darling. You will be freed from the sin only if you carry frogs on your shoulders and live on what they are pleased to provide you as food. Here I am to become your vehicle for your journey.' Now the frog went and informed his chief Jalapada about the cobra's mission. Under orders of the king all the frogs came to the cobra and occupied places on the hood and body

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

of the big serpent. Mandavisha was happy that his trick had worked and he creeped with his burden making dancing movements. The frogs were very pleased.

Then one day Mandavisha moved very slowly feigning weakness very adeptly. The frog king taking pity on him said, "Uncle, why don't you show your usual energy and move very slow". The serpent replied, "Lord, I did not have any food for several days and I don't have the energy to carry a heavy burden with all of you on my back." Then Jalapada said,"Father, then you feed on the mean snakes and satisfy your hunger". The cobra was pleased to hear these words. He said, "This exactly is the brahmin's curse on me. Now your permission gladdens my heart". From that day, the serpent gulped one frog daily and became fat and healthy. Jalapada had no inkling of this deception.

Meanwhile another big cobra came and witnessed this un-natural sight. He was astonished to see a cobra carrying his enemies on his body. He asked Mandavisha, " Hi, what is this. These frogs are our born foes. Then your becoming a vehicle for their journey is not against the laws of nature? Mandavisha said, "I very well know that is not my role to carry these frogs on me. Like the brahmin who pretended blindness on eating sweets, I am, also biding time.

"How was that?" asked the second serpent for which Mandavisha said,

Tale 13 LIE CANNOT WIN

The brahmin Yajnadutta had an immoral wife. Everyday she used to cook sweets in butter to be taken to her lover. The husband becoming suspicious enquired one day, "Dear, where do you take these sweets daily". The sharp-witted lady replied, "My darling, I have vowed to offer

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
sweetmeats made in butter to the goddess in the nearby temple for your long life." Then placing these dainties in a vessel, she went in the direction of the temple. She went to the temple tank for her bath before entering the temple. In the meantime her husband suspecting her motives entered the temple by the rear gate and hid himself behind the statue of the deity. After finishing bath the lady also came into the temple. She performed the preliminary rites of worship like offering of flowers, showing lighted lamp and then began to pray. " Oh Mother, make my husband blind so that he would not suspect about my love affair." A voice from behind the image of Goddess was heard. "Daughter, if only you feed him with sweetmeats made in butter, he will gradually lose his eyesight."

After returning home, she cooked sweets in butter every day and gave to her husband. After a few days the brahmin began to complain of loosing power of sight and one day he pretended total blindness. The lady and her lover now started meeting openly in her house fully believing that Yajnadutta would not find out. Then one day when her paramour was entering the house, the brahmin caught hold of his tuft and lashed him repeatedly, kicked with foot and finally took breath out of him.

Tale 12 (continued)

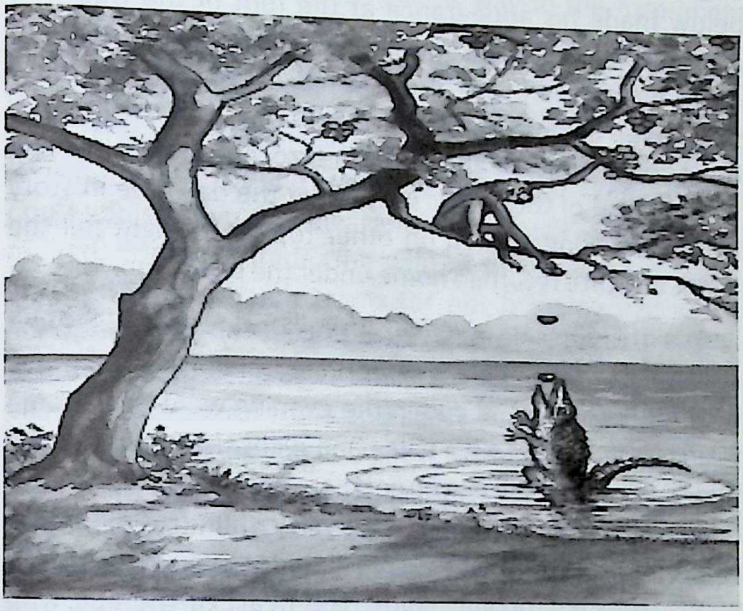
Jalapada, the frog chief asked the Cobra, "Did you say something?" The Cobra replied, "aye, no, nothing". The frog chief kept silence not knowing what was going on. Finally the cobra devoured all the frogs including their king.

[The third Tactics – Crows and Owls comes to end]

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

FOURTH TACTICS

FORFEITING GAINS



The clever monkey dropping red apples to the foolish crocodile

TACTICS – 4 FORFEITING GAINS

The fourth tactics called Forfeiting Gains begins with the verse

All dangers are overcome
By sheer presence of mind
Like the monkey in mid-ocean
Saved own precious life.

"How was that?" queried the princes. Vishnusarma told them the story.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A monkey named Rakthamukha (Red Face) lived on a rose-apple tree rich with sweet fruits on the ocean shores. One day while the monkey sat relishing the fruits, a huge alligator by name Karalamukha (Fierce face) from the waters below made his appearance at the foot of the tree. The monkey welcoming his guest said, "You are my honoured guest and scriptures say a guest is himself god-like. Eat these sweet rose apples and make friends with me." The monkey flung down plenty of apples for the crocodile to eat. He had a good meal of the fruits. They spent the day time in story telling and conversation on other topics. By night fall the water creature returned home under the blue deep.

This became a daily routine to the Crocodile who reached the rose-apple tree early morning, spent the day with his bosom friend and in the evening went back home taking some fruits to his wife. One night the she-crocodile said, "My dear, where do you get these nectarine fruits from?" He replied, "Darling, I have a monkey chum residing on a rose-apple tree and he sends these fruits to you his brother's wife." The she-crocodile said, "The heart of the ape who eats plenty of sweet fruits daily must be very sweet indeed. If you have an iota of love for your wife, you should bring his heart to me. After feeding on it, I shall be free from ageing and death. We two shall enjoy pleasures of life for long years." Shocked at these cruel words, he said, "Dear, do not entertain such evil thoughts. We should be really fortunate to have such an intimate friend and I can never think of doing any harm to him." The wife now started teasing Karalamukha, "I had been suspecting all the while that your friend is a she-monkey and not a male. Otherwise, you won't have over-ruled my desires. Your love for me has recently become a mere show. There is not the old ardour in your acts of love." The husband tried to assuage the ruffled feelings of his wife by endearing words holding her close to his breast. But she

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

refused to calm down and declared, "If you don't bring me the monkey heart, I shall fast till death."

The firm unalterable decision of his irate lady put Karalamukha in a tight spot. On his way to the rose-apple tree next morning this dilemma, 'how could I deceive my friend or how to calm my wife's anger' occupied the crocodile's mind. He was very late in reaching the usual place and that too with a worried face. Rakthamukha asked, "What is ailing you, my friend? Why are you so late today? Why don't you speak to me pleasantly as before?" The alligator replied, "Dear comrade, the wife of this brother of yours accused him in harsh terms for not bringing you as an honourable guest to her house. She charges me of ingratitude to a friend and benefactor and it is a great sin. He gives me plenty of ambrosial fruits and sends some to her too. She insisted on bringing you as a guest to her today itself. If I fail to do this, she would rather sacrifice her life. Now I have come to take you to our house to fulfill my promise to her. She would be waiting at the doorsteps of her decorated house with a beaming face decked in all her fineries." Redface was deeply touched by the sweet words and gesture of his friend's lady. He said, "She has used very appropriate language of gratitude and love of a high born lady and I am glad to pay obeisance to her. But how could I reach your house under the waters. You know that we can live only on land. I would rather request you to bring her here and I would worship her and seek her benediction." The he-alligator said, "Our home is on a charming sand bank under the blue deep and you would be very comfortable there. I shall take you there on my back." Without a second thought the ape jumped on to the back of the crocodile and said, "Don't lose any more time. I am very eager to meet your sweetheart".

Karalamukha swam fast to the mid-ocean with monkey on back. Waves after waves swelled up drenching the whole

 CC-0. Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

body of the jungle animal who shuddered at the speed of the flight and the vastness and depth of the roaring mass of water. He requested his friend to slow down and bring calmness to his frightened heart. The crocodile smiled with the self-assurance that his victim could now not escape from his hold. He said, with a loud laughter, "Friend, I intend to drown and kill you, for my wife is anxiously waiting to eat your heart. Now, offer your last prayers to your favourite deity." "What wrong have I done to you or to your wife to deserve an untimely death?" said the monkey The alligator replied, "You have done nothing wrong. Only my wife thinks that your heart must be very sweet because you daily feed on sweet rose-apples. She believes that by eating nectarine heart she can attain immortality and youthful vigour." Rakthamukha was sharp-witted and an immediate response came from him. He said, "My dear friend, why did you not tell me this before. I have left my sweet heart in a cavity of our rose-apple tree and then I could have given to you for the asking." The crocodile felt pleased because here is a solution to his dilemma of obtaining for his wife the sweet heart of his friend without harming him and thus conciliating her. He said, "I shall immediately take you back and you can send your second sweet heart to your brother's wife. Her life will be saved by your kindness." The crocodile with the monkey on back swam to the tree. The clever monkey jumped on to the tree. He said to himself, "By God's graces, I have got a new lease of life. Bestow no faith on an ungrateful fellow. Even when one is reliable, full faith should not be placed on him. Sometimes irreparable damage may visit on one who rests too much confidence on another."

Time ticked fast and the crocodile did not get any news from the monkey. The aquatic creature impatiently called out, "Friend, give me your sweet heart promised to me. Let your brother go and please his wife" The monkey

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

scolded Karalamukha in derisive tone, "You idiot, you ungrateful wretch, who has heard of a person having two hearts? Do not tarry here a moment longer. Flee without delay. I don't wish to see your face again." The crocodile hung his face in shame. He debated in his mind; ï was a fool to reveal before time my plan to kill him. Let me try to trick him once more." He said aloud, "Dear comrade, my wife has no desire to eat your heart. I was just jesting to see your reaction when faced with untimely death. You come with me as an esteemed guest. Your brother's wife is fervidly waiting to receive you." The ape replied, "You devil, be off quickly. Do you wish to fool me again? Haven't you heard?

A hungry one will commit any sin
A looser of wealth turns cruel
Tell Priyadarsan that Ganga
Will never flow to the well.

"How was that?" asked the crocodile. The other said,

Tale 1

COURTING ENEMY FOR SELFISHNESS

A frog chieftain, Gangadutta lived in a well along with his family and other relatives. Some of the relatives very often harassed him. In order to escape their torments he escaped from the well in a bucket used for drawing water. There while he was thinking as to how to teach his relatives a fitting lesson, he espied a black cobra entering its den. The frog chief went hopping to the burrow and cried, "Come out please, Priyadarsana". Fearing that someone was trying to trap him, the cobra sitting safely in his lair asked, "Who is calling me out?" The reply came, "Friend, it is me, the frog chief Gangadutta. Some of my friends who have turned enemies persecute me. I have come to seek your assistance to give

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
them a fitting reply. I very well know that cobra and frog are inveterate foes. By now my life depends on help from you. I request you to come with me to the well where I live with my relatives". The serpent said, " I have no legs to come down into the well and if at all I somehow manage to reach there, I have no safe place to reside". Gangadutta said, "I can show you an easy way to climb down and also a convenient cavity on the wall of the well sitting where you can catch your victim. There you should spare my family members. That is my only condition in leading you into the well. You are free to prey on those frogs that I point out". The cunning cobra thought, "This is a good opportunity to lead an easy life by feeding on frogs since I am already old and weak. This frog chief is god-sent messenger and guide in my old age." The cobra issued out of his den, embraced Gagadutta and then followed him into the well. All arrangements for food and comfortable stay of the cobra Priyadarsan were made by the frog chief. He began to feed on the frogs one by one till most of them were exterminated. Then addressing Gangadutta, the cobra said, "Dear friend all your enemy relatives have been finished. Bring me my daily meal". The frog chief said, "I am obliged for your help to me. Now I request you to go out of the well to live as formerly. Let me live in peace with my wife and children." But Piyadarsan replied, "Hi Gangadutta, it is not proper to dismiss me like this. I can no more go to occupy my former den which someone else might have encroached upon. Now fetch me one by one the members of your family. Otherwise I will have to finish them off at one stroke". Gangadutta was compelled to obey the commands of his foe. He repented at his own foolishness in bringing this dangerous enemy to destroy his own kindred. He realized that he was consuming poison in the guise of nectar." When his family members all fell victims to the cobra's gluttony, he demanded the frog chief for his daily ration. Gangadutta was petrified and was at his wits end. Somehow with great effort

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

he said, " Friend, if you permit, I shall go out of this well and bring frogs from other water holes." The serpent agreed saying, "You are dear to me and I am sure that you would keep your word. Gangadutta thanked the gods for sparing his dear life and quickly got out.

Priyadarsan waited eagerly for the return of the frog chief. But he failed to appear for many days. At last the cobra grew impatient and then he approached a lizard which was a long time inmate in the well. He said, "Madam, would you do me a favour. You are well acquainted with Gangadutta who had gone out from here long back. Please convey my message to him whom you are sure to meet in some other well. This is my missive: "Friend, please come to me at once for I cannot bear even for a moment's separation from you. It does not matter whether you bring a frog for me or not. I beg your pardon if I have offended you in any manner". The lizard went out and soon met Gangadutta inside a well. She said, "Father, your bosom friend Priyardasan is anxiously expecting your return. He has asked me to convey to you that in case he has done any wrong he is prepared to compensate it with the fruits of his righteous deeds." To this message, Gangadutta gave this reply, "A hungry creature would stoop to any sinful act. A beggar is the unkindest of all. Tell Priyadarsan that Gangadutta never intends to visit the well any more".

After concluding the story, the monkey said, "Like as what Gangadutta said, I too declare that I don't propose to come to your house". The crocodile protested, "Dear comrade, what you say is not right. You ought to visit our home and give us one opportunity to show our gratitude by extending a warm reception to you. If not, I will commit self-immolation before your eyes." The ape said, "Hark ye! fool, do you think that I am another Lambarkarna to be made an

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
ass by your sweet words". The crocodile wanted to hear the story of Lambakarna's stupidity. Rakthamukha said:

Tale 2 DONKEY WITH A DEAF LONG EAR

The lion king Karalakesara had Dhusaraka the jackal as his minister and constant companion. One day there ensued a fierce fight between the king and a huge elephant and the lion was seriously injured. He could not even move his limbs. Unable to hunt, the king and his minister had to undergo days without food. The fox said, "Lord, hunger seems to take life out of me. I have been unable to serve your majesty properly". The jungle king said, "Aye, you try to entice some animal to my proximity so that I could jump upon him even in my present condition." Under orders from the king, the fox walked and walked and finally reached a village. There on the bank of a pond, he saw a famished donkey chew the sparsely growing grass. The fox approached the ass and said, "Uncle, salutations to you. When was it that we last met. You have grown very thin for want of food." The ass replied, "Son, it is very true that I am very famished. The washerman, my master forces me to carry heavy load to great distances but seldom gives me even handful of grass. I hate him but I have no escape". The fox tried to pacify the poor ass, Lambakarna(Long Ear). He said, "Don't worry, uncle. Near my place in the forest there flows a river with clear cool water and on its bank there is plenty of fresh green grass. You can come with me and live a happy life in friendship". The donkey was apprehensive of own safety in a forest infested with cruel animals. But the clever fox assuaged his fears, "Leave off such pessimism. I am there always with you and I have strong arms to ward off dangers. Also there live three young and charming she-donkeys who had escaped from the clutches of the washerman. Hear their prayers when

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

I was coming here. They said, "Uncle, if you really love us, please fetch a husband suited for our beauty and young age. I am not heartless to turn a deaf ear to their request. I do think that you are a fitting husband to them." Thus lured by his words, the donkey followed the fox to the forest.

Flirting with woman is nectarine
Flirting with woman is poison too
Flirting with woman is life
Flirting with woman is death too.

The fox and the ass came near the lion who all of a sudden darted at the helpless ass and tore his skin with claws. The donkey somehow wriggled out of the clutches of the lion and ran for life. The unfortunate forest king lost his prey. The fox rebuked the lion of his inept handling of a weakling animal. The king hung his head in shame and with a wry smile said, "Son, I was not fully prepared for the kill. Anyhow bring another creature to me and I will not repeat the mistake". The jackal said, "Now you have to wait for a week. I shall bring the same ass before your majesty." The fox once again went to the same village and found Lambakarna grazing at the same spot.

Lambakarna was more cautious a second time he saw the fox approaching. He said to the fox, "Why did you lead me to the jaws of death. It was sheer luck that I could escape with life. Now tell me what sort of a creature was it with an evil look and sharp strong nails. The jackal laughed aloud and said, "Uncle, it was a female ass who jumped forward to embrace her lover. Why did you get frightened and ran away from her hands. She is weeping over her separation from her dear husband. She has asked me to bring you back to her without delay. She has vowed that she never would touch food or water till she sees your charming face. If I return without you, I am sure that she will enter blazing fire or drink

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
poison and sacrifice her life for love. Come immediately with me. Otherwise you would be accused of causing the death of a lady. The God of Love would become angry with you."

With sweet words the fox seduced Lambakarna to follow him to the lion. This time the lord of the jungle made no error in springing upon the foolish ass and killed him. The king ordered his minister to keep strict watch over the dead animal till he came back after ablution in the river. As soon as his master disappeared from the scene, the greedy fox without ado ate the long ears and the heart of Lambakarna. Finishing his bath and offering prayers to the gods and his forefathers, the lion hurried to take his lunch. – only to find the ass with ears and heart missing. Inflamed with ire he roared, "You cheat, how did you dare to pollute the royal repast by eating the ears and heart of my kill." Dhusaraka, the minister was a picture of humility and slavery. He said in a low voice, "Lord, don't be angry with me for no fault of mine. This idiotic ass had no ears and heart at birth. If he had these organs, he would not have come to you in order to court his death a second time." The lion was convinced by the logical words of the clever fox. The two shared a hearty meal of the killed ass.

The monkey continued,

'One who tells truth to the detriment of self interest is a dull-wit like the potter Yudhishtira.

To that alligator's query, "How was that?" the other replied.

Tale 3 CAN LEOPARD CHANGE OWN SPOTS

A potter named Yudhishtira intoxicated with excessive drinking was one day walking with unsteady steps towards his house. He stepped by accident on the sharp edge of a

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

broken earthen pot and fell down. In the process of tumbling down he got a deep wound on his forehead. For want of proper care the injury got infected and took a long time to heal. As a result a deep scar was left on the forehead.

Then once there was a famine and the potter went out of his village in search of a living. He joined a company of soldiers under a king. Finding a blot on Yudhishtira's brow, the king mistook it as a wound scar inflicted by sharp weapons in a war. By an error of judgement the king appointed him as a chief among his bodyguards. Many of his colleagues envied his elevation, but did not utter a word of dissent for fear of the king.

Then one day when a war was imminent the king was inspecting the parade of soldiers and testing the war preparedness of horses and elephants. The king happened to meet our potter alone and asked him, "O prince, which is your kingdom? To what royal lineage do you belong? Tell me on which battlefield you were wounded on your forehead?' The potter replied, "Lord, I am born in a family of potters. One day as I was returning home unsteady with intoxication, I tripped over broken pieces of pots. The scar is the result of this fall and not inflicted during a war" The king realized that he was fooled by a petty potter and ordered his exile. The potter prayed that he may be spared from a harsh treatment. He assured the king that he would prove his mettle in war. The king replied, "It may be true that you have valour and other excellent qualities. But you have to go away at once.

Brave you are and handsome
Adept in all arts you may be
But by birth you are not
Qualified to kill an elephant.

To the potter's query, "How was that?" the king replied.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Tale 4 BOTH COURAGE AND TIMIDITY ARE INFECTIOUS

A lion couple lived in a forest. The lioness gave birth to twin cubs. The husband killed daily an animal and brought it home for food to the mother. One day he sauntered till sun set but failed to find a victim. While he was returning home he saw a fox cub lying among trees. Feeling pity for the innocent baby, he took it alive to his wife. He said "This baby fox is the only creature I could spot today. But being too delicate I could not slay it. The scriptures debar slaughter of child, sage and woman. You may kill it yourself and satisfy your hunger'. The lioness said, "My dear, you did not kill it out of pity for the infant. Then how could a mother contemplate such an evil act. He will be brought up as my third baby along with his brothers." The three brothers, the twin lion cubs and the fox cub grew up fed by her breast milk.

Then one day the lion twins and their fox brother were frolicking when a huge tusker made his appearance before them. The leonine cubs were about to spring on the elephant. The fox blocking their reckless bravery asked them to desist from attacking a big animal. The timid fox quickly ran home leaving his brothers at the mercy of the elephant. The enthusiasm of the lion infants oozed out and they also followed their cousin.

The presence of one with courage
Would enthuse a whole army
But the presence of a timid one
Would set at naught others' courage

The lion cubs on reaching home told their mother, "Mom, mom, this our elder brother ran away for fear on seeing an elephant". They sneered at the fox's cowardice. The fox got very wrathful and curving his brows of fiery eyes he admonished his cousins in hard words. He challenged

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

them for a fight. Now his foster mother lioness beckoned the fox cub to go with her. She said to him confidentially, "Son, they are after all your little brothers. Don't speak ill of them". The fox became ireful and said, "Mother, in what respect am I inferior to them. I have courage, beauty and other qualities. Then why do they ridicule me? I am determined to kill them." The mother wanted to save the life of her fox son. She said with a smile in her heart, "Darling, you are only a fox. It was only out of kindness for your innocent age that you were brought up with my milk along with my sons. Now if your lion cousins come to know the truth, your life would be in danger. Therefore leave us and immediately join your kins. Otherwise you may be killed by my other sons." The fox obeyed his foster mother and ran for life.

Tale 3 – continued.

The king said, "Likewise before the princely members here know that you belong to the potter family, you better leave at once." Yudhishtira, the potter left the place with haste.

The ape said, "Even though covered with tiger hide, the identity of the donkey was detected by its howling and he lost his life" The crocodile asked, "How was that?" The ape replied.

Tale 5 A DONKEY IN TIGER SKIN

The washerman Suddhapata (cloth cleaner) did not feed his donkey properly with the result that the poor animal looked famished and weak. One day as the washerman was walking through a forest, he got an abandoned tiger hide. He reflected, "This is a good augury. I shall cover my ass with this tiger skin and let him loose to eat from the neighbouring fields during nights. My animal can have a fill from others' field and nobody will dare approach it for fear of tiger." This was soon put into practice. The donkey became fat and strong in a few days, he became very haughty also.

CC-0. Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

One night as the ass was grazing in the field he heard the howling of a female donkey. The washerman's ass in the tiger skin responded to her notes in a fitting tone. The farmers recognized that the encroacher was only a donkey and not a tiger. They came rushing and took life breath out of him.

The ape continued, "Syamalaka wanted to stay in spite of all insults. Finally he had to be necked out of the house with dishonour.

To the alligator's question, "How was that?" the monkey replied.

Tale 6 LEAVE BEFORE BEING INSULTED

In the city of Vikandaka there lived a trader Mahadhaneswara by name. One day his four sons-in-law came to his house as uninvited guests. They were, however, received with love and courtesy. Good food and comfortable accommodation were provided to them. The four young men lived in the house happily for about six months. Even then they showed no signs of going back to their own houses. The householder reasoned, "What shall I do now? They are not likely to depart without disrespect being accorded to them. When they come today for lunch water for washing feet should be denied. They would take this as my displeasure with them and leave immediately." Thus when they came to take food, they were not given water for wash. One of them, Garga left the house without a word. Next day small sized seats were set for them. The second one Soma immediately left the house. A third one Dutta departed the next day when he was served bad food. Only Syamalaka remained in spite of all insults. He got the rare honour of being necked out of the house.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The monkey said, "I have witnessed your true colours. I am not a fool to put any more faith in your nice talk.

A dunce can be appeased easily even if he witnesses sin committed before his very eyes. The carpenter carried on his shoulders his erring wife and her lover.

"How was that? " asked the crocodile to which the reply was.

Tale 7 WIFE ON HUSBAND'S SHOULDERS

It was a general talk of the village that the carpenter's spouse was a woman of easy virtue. The carpenter wanted to ascertain the truth about this rumour. One day he said, "Dear, I intend to leave early tomorrow to another village and is likely to return only after a few days. Please prepare food needed for the journey. She gladly acquiesced to his demand and cooked various dainties in ghee and sugar.

When skies are dark with rumbling clouds
And incessant rains make road impassable
A damsel with a lover to court
Becomes happy when her husband is away.

Next day before dawn the carpenter bid farewell to his wife and went out. But he did not go far; he hid himself in a nearby jungle waiting for the sun to set. As soon as her husband went out of sight, she sent word to her paramour to visit her at night. Under the cover of darkness after sun set the carpenter stealthily entered his bed chamber and lay hidden under the couch.

The carpenter's wife received Devadutta, her clandestine lover with both arms and led him to her room. The husband for once thought of mounting a sudden assault

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
and kill her lover. But then he decided to lie in wait and witness the ensuing drama. The unchaste woman now trying to climb on her bed touched with her foot something under the cot. The no nonsense lady correctly guessed that her husband was hiding under the cot in order to catch her red-handed. "Now I shall teach the rascal a lesson to remember," thought she.

Devadutta came forward to enclose her in his arms, but she said protesting, "Sir, I am a devoted wife. Don't touch me with bad motives. Otherwise I would curse you to ashes". "Then why did you invite me to visit you tonight?" said a surprised Devadutta. She replied, "Please listen to me, sir. This morning I went to the temple to worship the Goddess. All of a sudden I heard a voice from the heavens, "Daughter, you sure are my ardent devotee. But your dear husband is fated to die in six months leaving you a widow. I am helpless to will otherwise.' Then I said, "Mother, you have the power to foretell a coming danger. Then you must be knowing the way to ward off this hazard. I am ready to sacrifice my life even or do any other penance in order to save my beloved husband from death. Please instruct me and I shall obey." The voice from the skies said, "My child, there is a sure way but no loyal wife would dare to undertake that step. To ensure a long life of your husband, you have to stay locked in close embrace of a man other than your wedded lord" Sir, you will now appreciate why I invited you to my bed room tonight. All I did was with good motives of saving his life". The Will of the Goddess cannot be undone". The carpenter lying concealed under the cot came out overjoyed with the love and devotion shown by his wife. Addressing her he said, "Darling sweet heart, I believe every word you said. I am guilty of entertaining evil thoughts about my unblemished wife. Ah dear, hug me with your soft and loving arms. I shall celebrate this day by carrying you on my shoulders. Then

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

turning to Devadutta he said, "Oh beloved Sir, I am greatly indebted to you for enabling me to lead a long life in the company of my devoted wife. You too embrace me and climb on my shoulders." The idiotic carpenter carried his immoral wife and her lover on his shoulders and danced with joy.

The ape said to the crocodile, "In spite of a long association with good people, you could not mend your wicked ways. It is hard to change one's innate instincts.

A she-mouse turned girl refusing to wed divinities sun, cloud, wind etc, got married to a rat.

To the query, "How was that?" by the aquatic creature, the ape said,

Tale 8 NATURE PREVAILS OVER NURTURE

After his daily bath in the river Ganges one day while the sage Shalangayana was offering oblations to sun god, he witnessed a big eagle sweeping down to snatch a she-mouse with his claws and flying away. Moved with pity he threw stones at the bird uttering, 'let go, let go'. Struck by stones, the eagle fell down, at the same time releasing the rat from its clutches. The terrified animal sought protection at the feet of the saint. The bird on regaining consciousness complained to the recluse, "Oh great soul, you have done wrong in felling me with stones and freeing my natural prey. Rat is my godgiven feed and it is a sin to deny me what is my right." The sage replied, "You wicked bird, it is my duty to save a poor creature which sought refuge in me. You talk sheer platitude. Vicious creatures like you deserve fitting punishment." The eagle retorted, "Every life has been provided with suitable food in nature. Rat is my god-given victual. Then why do you blame me for catching it?"

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Agreeable food brings in well-being
Inedible foods leads to sin and disease
I have done nothing evil
Then for what am I castigated.

Moreover awarding penalty is no business of a sage. For a sage no one is a friend or foe. A recluse does look upon equally the clod, the stone and gold. This your act does not behove a great man like you". This peroration of the eagle had no effect on the sage who had decided to take the mouse home. He thought it is not meet to bring the mouse as such with him; so using his yogic powers, he transformed the little animal into a charming girl. Seeing the sage coming with a girl in his hands, his wife asked, "Lord, where did you pick up this little girl?" The saint replied, "Dear, this is a little she-mouse saved from the claws of an eagle. I transfigured it into a girl in order to take it here. Now let her be reared under your loving care and when time comes, she can be given back her original form". But the lady protested saying, "Lord, not so. You are her father by the right of saving her life. Since we are not fortunate to have a child of our own, permit me to become her mother."

The girl grew up like the digit of the waxing moon disc in the bright fortnight and became a charming young lady. The sage Shalangayana said to his wife, "Dear, our daughter has come of age for marriage. A husband suitable to her youth and beauty we have to find for her.

Young lady looks for a handsome husband
The mother wants a wealthy son-in-law
The father seeks for a well-learned man
The relatives ask for high connections
And others expect a sumptuous feast

The sage thought that sun god would be highly suitable bridegroom; but in marriage the likes and dislikes of

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

his daughter are most important. He told her of his mind. The girl did not object. By using his yogic powers he called on the Sun God to appear before him. The resplendent divinity instantly did so and asked, "Holy sir, what is your wish?" The saint said "This is my charming daughter. Would you accept her as bride?" Turning to his daughter he said, "Darling, here is the god of cosmic light. Do you wish to marry him" She replied. "Father, this sun god is unbearably hot I have no love for him. Bring me someone greater than him". The sun knew that she was only a she-mouse. He said, "Sir, the cloud is superior to me for he can fully shadow me." The cloud made his appearance at the beck of the holy man. The girl said, "This cloud is dark in colour and he is unamiable. Father, callsomebody more distinguished." To the sage's query, the cloud said, "Sir, the wind is nobler than me because by force he is capable of shattering me and casting the pieces all round". In answer to the sage's summons the wind god came. The father asked his daughter whether she would accept him. The girl replied, "I know that the wind is very strong. But he won't be dependable since he is fickle and never remains still." The recluse asked the wind god, "Sir, is there anyone more eminent than yourself." The wind god said that the mountain is stronger since he can block his course however powerfully he blows. The sage made the mountain to appear before him and asked his daughter whether she would love to wed him. She said, "Dear father, the mountain is very hard and obstinate and no girl could love him. Therefore give my hand in marriage to someone who is handsome and lovable." When the sage sought his advice the mountain said, "Oh great soul, the rat is greater than me but is not harsh like me. He is strong for he can burrow through me and reach the other side". The holy man summoned the rat prince to come to his presence. When the girl saw the rat, she became bashful and her face turned crimson. She cast her eyes down and muttered in a low voice, 'Father, metamorphose me once

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
for all into a she-mouse and perform my wedding with this handsome prince. Let me lead a life following my innate instincts". The sage turned his daughter into a she-rat and performed her marriage ceremonies according to scriptural edicts.

There is a saying, Ä woman does not value gold, jewel or royal comforts more than one she loves."

The monkey said, "Like the mouse turned woman discarded even divine status to wed a low creature by instincts, you too abandoned my friendship and love and resorted to evil ways. Therefore, oh idiot, henpecked to a nagging wife you abdicated your own self-interest and nectarine rose-apples. Haven't you heard?

"She who ever despised me is hugging me now. Hark Ye, you who does such favour to me, hail to thee. You rob everything that belongs to me.

The crocodile questioned, "How was that?" The ape replied.

Tale –9 OLD HUSBAND SALUTES THIEF

Kamathura (Mr. Lust) was a wealthy old merchant. After the death of his wife, he in his old age married a young beauty investing a huge amount on her. But she so much disliked him that she did not even look at his disfigured and wrinkled face or at his famished skeleton body. One night she was lying on bed turning her face away from her husband. Then suddenly she saw a thief entering the room. She immediately turned to the other side and embraced her husband tight out of fear for the visitor. The old man was too surprised that his wife hugged him so. He started thinking, "This is strange and unusual. Why does she hold me so?" He turned his eyes and then he saw the thief standing in the corner. Seeing that the thief was trying to depart, Kamathura

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

addressing him said, "Oh robber, don't go. You have done me a great favour by forcing my wife to embrace me. I shall give everything of mine to you if you come every night to my bed room".

The ape continued, "Exactly like Kamathura, you behaved as a slave to your wicked lady and forsook all your weal.

While the monkey and the crocodile were engaged in conversation a water creature came to inform thus, "Oh Karalamukha, your wife has begun her fast. If you delay more in going to her she will certainly die of starvation." On receiving the news, the crocodile started raving, "Ha, my dear, why do you wish to leave this miserable creature alone on earth. My dear friend Rakthamutha, forget and forgive for all my bad behaviour. Haven't you heard?

"You are more clever than me. You lost your husband, your wealth and your lover. You naked harlot, why are you standing and gazing at?.

"How was that?" asked the monkey. The alligator replied.

Tale-10 MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

There lived an old man with a young wife. She had no interest in her old man and was ever on the look out for lovers. One day she happened to meet a young man whose sole occupation was grabbing others' riches. While spending time in secret, he said to her, "Oh, charming lady, I am a widower. Your beauty has made me your slave." She replied. "Oh, handsome one, be it so. My husband is very wealthy but he is an ugly looking old man. I shall bundle up all his earnings and go with you anywhere you would take me". He said, "Dear lady, please come to this place early tomorrow

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

with all your possessions. We shall go together to some city and lead a happy life".

At night the same day, making sure that her man was fast asleep, she collected all his wealth and made a bundle. Early before sun rise she reached the appointed spot where her lover was waiting. The two proceeded hand in hand to the south. After covering a long distance they reached the shore of a quick flowing stream. The rogue lover of hers started musing. "She is on the last leg of her youth and I don't have much interest in her. Moreover if somebody comes in pursuit of her, there would be trouble. It is better to abandon her here and set off with all her valuables." Then he said aloud, "My love, it is difficult for you to cross this turbulent river by yourself. First I shall take this bundle of wealth across and next I shall take you to the other shore on my shoulders." She agreed and handed over the bundle to him. He said again, "Sweet heart, please give me your dress you are wearing and I shall reach it also without wetting." The cheat went to the other shore with all the valuables leaving the harlot stark naked. Then without even looking back, he went on his way.

As she was waiting for the return her paramour, a vixen came running with a piece of meat held in her mouth. There she sighted a big fish lying near the waters. Now putting down the meat she ran to catch the fish. Suddenly an eagle scooped down and took away the meat piece. The fish on sensing danger jumped into the river before the she-fox reached. The fox came back disconcerted with a wry face only to see that her meat had also disappeared. Our lady who was watching closely all these drama said to the vixen, which was looking up to the flying eagle.

The meat has been lost to the eagle and the fish has escaped into the river. Having lost both, what is the use of staring vacantly"? The she-fox retorted with a sneer, "You naked strumpet, your husband is lost, your wealth is gone

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

and your paramour has vanished. You feel you are clever. Then what are you waiting for and gazing at wasting time".

Meanwhile another aquatic creature came to announce, "Ha Karalamukha, another giant alligator has attacked and occupied your residence." He became dejected and perplexed not knowing what to do. He could not decide on a way out and turned to the monkey for advice. He said, "My dear comrade, another, rival crocodile has forced into my den ejecting out my wife and children. Please give wise counsel as to what should be done." The monkey replied: "You ungrateful scoundrel, why do you seek my advice. I won't oblige you any more.

Advice is not to be rendered to the undeserving. A little bird having a comfortable home lost it when she gave unwanted counsels to a monkey.

"How was that"? Asked the crocodile. The other replied.

Tale 11 BRAGGING MOUTH IS SHUT

A bird couple sitting in a cozy nest on a tree branch was enjoying the cool winter. On a very cold day, a monkey sought asylum under the tree. His whole body was shivering and teeth clattering with cold. The she-bird, which was comfortable in her warm nest, started giving advice to the monkey in a sneering tone.

"He has strong legs and hands to work with. Even then he has not built a house to stay in during inclement weather. It is a pity that he had been lazy all these days." On hearing these ridiculing talk of an insignificant bird the ape thought," This silly bird, boasts of her good fortune in having a comfortable home." Then addressing the she-bird, he said, "You silly girl, how dare you to give me unwanted counsels. Look at her bragging mouth which gloats over her good luck.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
She seems to believe she can hold up the falling skies with upraised legs. Now if you speak another word, I shall make soup out of you.

The silly bird continued to blabber pieces of advice to the monkey. He climbed up the tree and shattered her nest.

Now our ape on the rose-apple tree said, "In subservience to a woman's commands, you wanted to slay me by pushing me into the ocean. How can anybody believe you? Haven't you heard?

I forsook my parents and half my life for her, but she rejected my love. How can anybody put faith me such a one?"

"How was that?" questioned the crocodile. The monkey answered.

TALE 12 - RETURN OF BORROWED LIFE

There lived a brahmin with his wife. She always brangled with her husband's people. Unable to endure this strife, the husband, leaving his parents, set out with his wife to a distant place. In the midst of a jungle, the lady felt thirsty and wanted her man to bring water. When the brahmin returned with water, he found his wife lying dead. He began to lament loudly at the loss of his beloved. A voice from above said, "Oh brahmin, if you are willing to gift half your life span, she will revive". In obedience to the divine words, the husband took bath in the river and chanted, "I confer half my life to you" three times. The lady immediately came back to life and stood up. Both quenched thirst with water and ate wild fruits. They then started their onward journey. The couple reached a garden near the city gates. The brahmin said, "Darling, take rest here till I bring food for us". He walked towards the city. At one end of the garden a lame man was piping a charming note. Attracted by his song, she came near

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

the cripple. Overcome by a wild sexual craving for the limp she said, "Dear, accept my love, otherwise you will be accused of the murder of a woman". The lame man asked, "Of what avail to you is a disabled man like me?" She was insistent in her demand and finally he had to acquiesce to it. The brahmin returned with food. The lady said, "The poor cripple is also very hungry and shall we not share the food with him also". The three had food together. Before setting out for further travel the lady said to her husband, "Dear, let us take this poor man also with us. We shall have the pleasure of the company of another". But the brahmin objected, "My darling, you are unable to walk long distances yourself. Then why this extra burden of a lame fellow?" In a placating voice she said, "Lord, how can we leave behind this hapless cripple? Let us seat him in a bundle and I shall carry him on my head". The husband agreed to her insistent prayer out of love for her. The three proceeded on their journey. Then one day while they were resting near a well, the lady somehow pushed her unwitting husband into the well. Then, she, carrying the cripple in a bundle on her head, walked on to reach a city. There she was rounded up by suspecting tax officials of the city and was led to the king's presence. The king asked her to open the bundle and as she did so all present there were surprised to see a limp inside. To the question by the king, she said in a sobbing tone, "Lord, this poor man is my husband, but his own people deserted him. I am taking him to a safe place in order to live in peace with him." Moved by compassion the king gifted her a few villages and advised her to live there without any harassment.

The brahmin who was pushed into the well by his ungrateful wife was saved by a passer-by. He also reached the same city and as he was coming to the audience of the city ruler, his wife descried him. The vicious woman at once approached the king and said, "Lord, here comes the foe of my poor husband. It was he who did much harm to him."

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
Putting blind faith in the woman's words, the king ordered that the newly arrived brahmin be executed. The Brahmin said, "My lord, this lady has kept with her something which exclusively belonged to me. Be gracious to order her to give it back to me". The king said, "Madam, if you are keeping something belonging to him, please return". The lady denied having received anything at all from the brahmin. But he retorted, "Your majesty, she is lying. I had bestowed on her half my life span chanting three times, "I give half my life to you". Fearing royal punishment she had to admit her husband's words of oath. She then fell dead immediately. To the king's queries, the Brahmin gave a detailed account of the incidents.

Rakthamukha continued, "I have heard that under the dictates of a woman what will a man not do? On such occasions, man will neigh like a horse'. This is the story..

Tale –13 A GREAT EMPEROR BRIDLED

The great emperor Nanda was famous all over the world for power and valour. His footstool glittered with rays coming from the jewels on the crowns of vassal kings. His laurels were stainless like the light of autumnal full moon. He was the supreme overlord of lands brimmed by the seven oceans. One day his queen lost temper for a silly reason. With honeyed words and loving acts the king endeavoured to pacify her, but failed. He pleaded with her saying, "My darling queen, I cannot live even for a single moment without you. What shall I do to propitiate your august majesty?" The queen replied," If only my lord would stand like a horse at my feet on your four legs and neigh like one when I put the bridle and sitting on your back drive you I will certainly be pleased". The great king obeyed the orders of his wife to the very letter in order to please her.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The ape continued, "Hey Karalamukha, you too are a slave of a woman like king Nanda". The crocodile said, "Surely I have wronged you and I don't deserve to be pardoned. But still be kind enough to advise me as how to throw out my rival from my den". The monkey replied: "I won't help you in any way however much you plead". Haven't you heard, "Out of foolishness and vanity a camel cub disregarded sane words of wise people. The result was his slaughter at the hands of the lion." The ape told the story.

Tale –14 ARROGANCE ENSURES FALL

The carpenter Mandabudhi (Dullwit) was a bad workman. One day a she-camel strayed into his house. The camel was grazed in the nearly woods and in a few months she became a young beauty. In time she gave birth to a charming colt. The carpenter took great care to look after the baby camel. In token of his affection he tied a ringing bell on the young one's neck. The carpenter sold the mother camel in the market. With this money and some amount taken on loan from a rich man he bought more camels. By and by his camel trade flourished and he became the owner of a big herd of animals. But being the first born in his house he bestowed special fondness for his young colt.

Every morning the camels trouped to the nearby woods and they returned home by evening. The first born camel was proud of the favour and status he got from master and he became hot headed. So he walked back home in the evening behind others shunning their company. The old and wise among them advised him not to fall back during homeward trot lest some cruel beast should finish him off spotting him alone. The arrogant young camel spurned their words and continued his habit of journeying last and alone with head held high and listening to the sound of bell on own neck. One day the impudent young camel trailed far behind and did not care for the darkness of nightfall. A lion

 In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

was watching the procession and as soon as the young camel came near him far behind his folks the lion roared loudly. Before he realized what was happening the sharp claws of the lion ploughed through his body and he died.

Karalamukha once again pleaded with the monkey, "Friend, I have behaved badly to you, but still bless me with proper counsels.

To return kindness for kindness
Is nothing great or noble
A really great one shows
Kindness in return for evil
He reaps no sin here or hereafter

The monkey replied" "If it is so, these, go, fight your enemy and oust him from your lair.

If one dies in war, he enters heavens
If victorious, a happy home is the reward.

If the enemy is more powerful, show humbleness, if he is valiant, sow seed of defeatism in him, if he is mean give him a paltry gift and send him back. To an enemy who is equal fight out to the end.

The crocodile queried: "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale –15 BE HUMBLE TOWARDS THE POWERFUL

While Maha Chaturaka, the jackal was strolling in the forests he happened to come upon an elephant carcass. He walked round it many times biting here and scratching there, but could make no dent because of the hardness of elephant hide. He now saw a lion coming towards him. The sly fox came forward to the lord of the jungle, bowed low to him and invited him to have a good meal of elephant meat.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The king replied: "Hey friend, don't you know yet that the king of the forest do not eat from another's kill. We gracefully gift the meat to you." The fox was happy.

The great do not forsake
His excellent traits till death
A conch put to blazing fire
Do not alter its whiteness

The lion was gone. In came a tiger. The fox ruminated: "Only just now have I warded off an evil fellow. Now this tiger is not only strong but valiant also. I have to play some trick on him. Having decided so, the fox lifted his head, and looking around he feigned fear. He said, "Uncle, why did you come here to the jaws of sure death. This elephant has been killed by the lion and he has gone to the river for bath entrusting me to watch over his food. He has specifically instructed me not to allow any tiger to touch it. He said that once before he had excused a tiger for desecration of his lunch and he won't allow this to happen again. In case that happens he has vowed to annihilate the entire tiger race on earth. This threat was more than sufficient for the tiger to take to his heels. Before running away the tiger prayed, "Don't mention my name to the king."

Soon a panther sauntered in sniffing all the way. The fox started to muse; "I can make use of this fellow with sharp teeth and claws to pierce the hard skin of the carcass. He said aloud: "Ha nephew, it is long since I had the good fortune of meeting you. You seem to be pinched with hunger. As a host it is my duty to feed a guest. This elephant, of course, is killed by our king the lion and he has gone to the river for a wash before lunch. He has bid me to keep watch over his kill. But you may taste some elephant meat before the king comes." Being frightened of lion's anger, the leopard was not willing to bite but was persuaded by the crafty fox to cut

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
it open for a morsel of meat. The fox assured him that he would give warning signals as soon as the lion is sighted. The leopard using his sharp and strong claws and teeth soon made a dent in the carcass. When he was about to take a bite the fox cried out, "Friend panther, run for your life, the lion is coming". Without a moment's delay the leopard took to flight.

Chaturaka, the clever fox now started to slowly eat the flesh through the opening made by the leopard. Now it was the turn of another fox to appear on the scene. He howled with rage and fell upon his rival. There ensued a fierce fight between the two and in the end the intruder fox lost its life.Chaturaka, the wily fox enjoyed a good feast of elephant meat.

The monkey on the rose apple tree advised the alligator, "Friend Karalamukha, you immediately go and fight with your rival crocodile and push him out of your haven. If you give time, he will entrench himself and that will be a tragic end for you in your inherited place.

"In a foreign land one may get enough food. But if one does not care for his home even own people will become aliens."

"How was that?" questioned the crocodile. The answer was

Tale-16 HOME IS HEAVEN

There lived a dog-called Chitranga. It happened that there was a severe famine in his native place. All the living creatures were hungry. Chitranga went to another village where he could exploit the carelessness of the housewives to stealthily enter their kitchens and eat his fill. One day as he came out of a house with full stomach, he was surrounded by other dogs of the village and was subjected to all troubles.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Somehow he made an escape and reached his own native place. He described his experiences to his relatives and friends. "My dear people, ones own birth place is a heaven even when food is scarce. An alien land is not good even with abundance. I have decided never to leave home anymore."

Taking cue from wise counsels of Rakthamukha, the crocodile, Karalamukha returned home and ousted his rival after a fight. There he lived happily with wife and children.

(Thus comes to a close the Fourth Tactics called Forfeiting the Gains of Panchatantra)

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

FIFTH TACTICS
ILL-CONSIDERED DEED

The first verse of the fifth tactics called ILL-CONSIDERED DEED

Look, hear and know
And examine pros and cons
Before an action is done
Unlike what the barber did

The Princes queried: How was that? Vishnu Sharman narrated the story. In the southern region there existed a city called Pataliputra. A trader named Manibadra lived there. He was leading a life engaged in deeds for the fulfillment of the goals of righteousness, satisfaction of desire, and earning wealth. But he lost his opulent wealth because Fates decreed that way. He was overcome by grief. A train of thoughts passed through his mind.

"Good character, purity, fortitude, charity, sweet talk, nobility-all these do not shine in one who has no wealth with him. What is to be done under the circumstances? Why not I fast unto death?" When he was falling asleep, he saw a dream. A large treasure of millions of gold coins appeared before him in the guise of a Jain ascetic. It said, "Hey trader, don't loose yourself to dejection. My name is Padmanidhi, a treasure amassed by your forefathers. Next morning I will appear before you as a Jain mendicant. You strike hard on my head with a rod. You will see me turned into a heap of gold and I shall stay with you forever."

Next morning he woke up very early and sat in front of his house in the hope of the monk coming as foretold in the dream. 'Will the dream come true or will it remain an illusion? Perhaps the dream was the result of my being too much absorbed in thoughts of wealth.'

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

'The dreams of one afflicted with disease, of one who is too much grieved, of one who is overanxious, of one over-worked with lustful thoughts are all meaningless'.

As he sat absorbed in meditation, lo! there appeared before him a Jain monk. He was received with great joy and was welcomed into the house. In the meantime a barber who had been engaged by his wife for cleaning and polishing her nails had already arrived there. Convinced that his dream had come true, the trader caught hold of a thick stick and struck the monk on his head. The Jain ascetic was turned into a heap of gold coins and fell on the floor. The trader gathered all the gold and hid inside the house. Realizing that the barber had witnessed the strange incident, the trader gifted him with a handful of coins and made him promise not to divulge this to a third person. He consented and went home.

On reaching home, the barber thought over the happenings at the trader's house and then he came to the conclusion that any Jain monk if struck on head would turn to gold. He decided to invite many monks from the nearby monastery and kill them by hitting on their heads. Early next morning, he went to a monastery. There he worshiped the statue of Jinadeva, circumambulated three times, covered his mouth with his upper cloth and sitting on his knees began to praise the Lord.

'Victory-to Lord Jina who is the treasure-house of supreme knowledge, who by birth is devoid of any desire.

The tongue that is used for praising lord Jina alone can be called a tongue. The hands are really to worship Him. The use the of mind is really only to find bliss in the Lord.' Then the barber approached the head monk of the monastery, bowed reverentially to him and said, "Oh holy father, salutations to you. " The monk blessed him and instructed

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy
him to lead a virtuous life dictated by the teachings of Lord Jinadeva. With due respect and humbleness, the barber invited the head monk and his disciples to visit his house and give him an opportunity to render services to them. He also offered to give them alms of clothes and gold. The ascetic replied that his custom was to visit the house of the devotee who invited them when they came out after their daily practice of penance and asked the barber to return home. He went home and then made out strong rods of hard wood in order to execute his plans.

After making all preparations for welcoming the monks, he went and stood at the gates of the monastery before noon. After completion of their morning religious rites, the monks began to march out of their residence led by the head monk. The barber said, "Holy sir, please come, come" and then led them all to his house. As soon as they entered his house, the barber closed all the doors and started to beat them on the head with heavy rods. One of the ascetics died on the spot. The others began to raise a loud hue and cry that attracted the people. The police who were on their daily rounds heard this loud wailing and rushed to the spot. The injured monks with blood trickling from their heads and faces issued out from the house and started running. The police handcuffed the barber and brought him before the judges. They questioned him regarding the cruel treatment meted out to these innocent ascetics. He replied, "Sirs, what can I do? I happened to be in house of the trader Manibhadra by chance and was a witness to a similar deed of the trader." He then described in detail all he saw there. The judges summoned Manibadra and asked, "Mr. Trader, did you happen to strike any Jain monk on his head" Manibadra gave a detailed account to the law officers of the events at his house. The judges ordered that the barber be beheaded for his heinous crime. The judges said: "Do notengage in any deed

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

without a proper look into the circumstances. If one jumps to act without right knowledge, he will have to repent as the brahmin lady did in the case of mangoose Maanibadra asked:

"How was that?" They replied.

Tale 1 THINK BEFORE YOU JUMP

There lived a brahmin named Devasharma and his wife. The lady gave birth to a boy. Almost at the same time her pet mangoose gave birth to a young one. The brahmin lady reared her boy as well as the baby mongoose with love and care. But she did not have full faith in the mongoose because of its cruel nature by instinct.

One day, laying her boy in the tree shade, she went to fetch water from the pond. She entrusted the safety of the boy to her husband for want of full trust in the baby mangoose frolicking nearby. The brahmin also left home for his daily round of begging food in the village. The mangoose and the boy were left alone. In the meantime the animal espied a king cobra coming out of its hole. In order to save the life of its human brother, the mangoose engaged the serpent in a fierce fight and tore it into pieces. With blood trickling from its face the mangoose ran to meet the brahmin lady who was coming with water pot in order to announce his heroic deed of saving the life of her son. The mother mistook that the mangoose had killed her child. In a fit of anger she threw the heavy pot of water on the creature and killed it on the spot. Lamenting loudly she ran anxiously to the place where she had laid her boy but found him safe and sound. Near him there were pieces of the serpent killed by her pet. She was overcome with remorse at her thoughtless act of killing her son's brother. The same time the brahmin also came home after gathering daily bread. Addressing her husband she

rebuked him for deserting his duty of protecting his son because of his excessive greed. She said: "Haven't you heard it said,

Excessive avarice is bad, but desire should not be abandoned. A wheel remains rotating on the head of the greedy man.

The brahmin asked: "How was that?" She said

Tale 2 AVARICE IS BAD BUT DESIRE IS NOT

There lived four bosom friends. They were afflicted with dire poverty. They held mutual consultations as to how to overcome this poor condition. It is well known that

A master never likes an indigent man
His children and relatives forsake him
Wife does not properly serve him
Friends do not entertain him

Heroism, beauty, eloquence and knowledge shine not in him.

They decided to go to other places in search of wealth. After travelling for days, they reached a country named Avanti; they took bath in the waters of the river Sipra and worshiped in the Siva temple on its banks. On coming out of the temple, they came face to face with a saintly person named Bairava who could work miracles with his yogic powers. The four friends paid due obeisance to the holy man and followed him to his hermitage.

"Where do you come from, where are you travelling to, what is the object of your sojourn?" asked the saint. "We left our homeland with the aim of acquiring wealth. Your holiness should help us. Amassing wealth or courting death (in case we fail,) is our aim. The Goddess of riches weds

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

only one who engages himself in heroic works in spite of dangers. Your holiness is capable of imparting magical powers to us with the help of which we can become rich. We are prepared to crawl into narrow caves, or to propitiate any evil spirit or live in a cemetery in order to attain magical powers."

Bairava performed various rites and then handed over to each one magical wick and said "Holding the wick in your hand take a northerly direction leading to the Himalayas where lives Kubera, the lord of riches. When a wick falls, dig the place for treasure. You may gather as much as you can and return home." They bowed at the feet of the sage, took the wicks in hand and walked towards the sacred Himalayas. They kept on walking for a few days when one day one wick fell on the ground. They dug up the earth and soon found plenty of soil mixed with copper. The man from whom the wick fell said: "We have here a large treasure of copper. Let us gather as much as we can and return home as advised by the holy man." The others did not agree.They said: "Oh fool, copper is a cheap metal and any amount of this material cannot alleviate our poverty. We intend to march ahead. The first man gathered a large heap of copper and went back home. After a few more days walk, the wick from a second hand fell down.The earth was dug up and they discovered plenty of silver mixed soil. The second friend said: "Here we have plenty of silver. Let us gather this precious material as much as we like and go back to lead a happy life". The remaining two said: "First we discovered copper and now silver. The next time we are sure to strike gold that is more costly. We intend to go forward." The second man returned home with plenty of silver. The other two friends continued their journey. Thenone day the magical wick fell down from one friend. On digging up they found, as expected, gold mixed earth aplenty. He said: "Dear comrade, we have come across precious gold at last. Shall we not now go back home with a large supply of the most costly yellow metal? Let us put a

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

full stop to our search of more wealth." The fourth friend did not agree to the proposal for he was sure to find diamonds and pearls if they go further. He left his friend to gather his gold and travelled ahead.

Now the summer sun was blazing hard and the fourth man was afflicted with pinching thirst and hunger. In distress he strayed away from the path of treasure hunting in search of water. While he was roaming about, a strange sight of a man carrying a revolving thorny wheel on his head attracted his eyes. Blood was streaming down his face. He appeared to be under great pain. Our treasure seeker approached the wheel bearer and asked, "Hey, who are you and what are you doing here? I am very thirsty and where can I get some water to drink."

He did hardly speak these words when the wheel jumped on to the new comer's head and started rotating. He was extremely perturbed by this development. He asked the erstwhile wheel bearer: "How did it happen that the wheel on your head jumped on to my head." The other man replied: "It was in the same fashion that I happened to bear the revolving wheel." The new wheel -bearer asked: "This gives me extreme pain. Do tell me when I would be relieved of this wheel." The other replied: "When someone else who comes here failing to get treasure and talks to you, the wheel on your head will be transferred on to the new man's head?" He asked: "How long had you been here with this wheel on your head?" The other replied: "I had been standing here for ages, I cannot tell you how long". The new wheel bearer inquired: "For one who stands here in this condition, from where could he get food and water?" The other replied, "Dear friend, Kubera the Lord of Wealth wants to threaten the treasure hunters from approaching Himalayas, the sacred place of the gods. The spiked wheel on head always revolving with excruciating pain and lack of food and water are the

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

punishment to one who dares to come here." With these words he bid farewell and left the cursed place for good.

Days passed before his former friend, the gold finder came to this place in search of his friend. He was greatly distressed to see his friend with a rotating sharply spiked wheel on his head, making loud and painful noises. With tear filled eyes, he asked his friend how all this happened. The wheel bearer replied: "This is the fated punishment for avarice. It is now too late to realize that I did not pay heed to your wise counsels." The gold finder said with some sarcasm, "If only we had satisfied our desire for wealth with the discovery of gold, we could have gone back with enough wealth. Now the only way is to suffer the workings of fate with patience till another fool appears here to take on this painful burden on his head. Haven't you heard?"

Common sense is more precious than knowledge. The story of those who gave life to the dismantled remains of a dead lion is a fit lesson.

The wheel bearer asked: "How is that?" The gold finder replied:

Tale –3 COMMONSENSE BETTER THAN ERUDITION

There lived four young friends. Of them three were adept in all sciences but lacked an iota of commonsense. The fourth had ample power of discrimination but was not erudite. All of them were too poor to meet their daily needs. After discussing the various options among themselves, they decided to set out eastwards in search of a place where they could court the favours from a king and become wealthy. For some days they journeyed together. Then one day the eldest of them said: "One among us is intelligent, but not well versed in sciences. With intelligence alone, he cannot receive favours from the king. Let him return home." The second man

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

agreed with this view. But third scholar protested and said: "No, that is not right. We had been bosom friends from childhood. Let him also come with us. We shall give him a share of our earnings."

Men with small wisdom think, "This is mine, that belongs to others. But one with discrimination considers the whole world as his kith and kin.

On their way they had to cross a forest where they saw the dismantled bones of a dead lion lying spread on the floor. Then one scholar friend said: "Why cannot we apply the knowledge of sciences to vivify the dead animal." He very carefully arranged the bones to be like the skeleton of lion. The second scholar provided it with blood, flesh, and skin. The third one was about to impart life into the dead animal. Then the wise man named Subudhi (the wise) said: "Friend, wait a bit and ponder over the consequences of your intended action. If you revive it now, a live lion will stand up on four legs and finish off all of us". But the other said: "Fool, don't obstruct me. I am determined to test the truth of our science" Then Subudhi said: "Please bear with me for some more time till I climb up this tree". The wise man did so immediately. The scientist fool infused life breath into the animal. The lion pounced upon the other three and killed them. Subudhi climbed down the tree and went back home.

The gold finder continued: "Have you not heard, One well versed in sciences, but ignorant in the ways of the world becomes the object of derision like scholar bumpkins. The wheel bearer asked: "How was that?" The gold finder replied:

Tale –4 THE FOUR FOOLS

There once lived four friends who were foolish by birth. One day as they sat talking, they decided to go to a place for studies under an able teacher. They went to a city called Kannyakubja where they undertook rigorous studies

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

of the sciences under a renowned teacher for twelve long years. Convinced that they had become adept in the science of living, they bid farewell to the teacher. With a reference book in hand they started back home. After travelling for a few days, they reached a junction where the road was bifurcated in two directions. They could not decide which way to pursue. Now they saw a large number of people going along one route. Actually it was a procession of mourners winding their way to a cemetery. Now our scholars turned the pages of the book to decide which way to go. It was written there that the way (of life) of great men (wrongly interpreted as the route chosen by a large number of people) was to be followed. Accordingly our foolish scholars took the same road that the mourners pursued. Near the burial ground they saw a donkey standing. They promptly opened the book and read, 'One who stands by you in festival time, in times of grief, in times of trouble with enemy, in royal court, and in cemetery is the real friend.'

So they found a real friend in the donkey. One hugged it by neck, another began to wash its legs and others engaged themselves in other services. Then one happened to turn round, lo! there stood a camel. Three of them uttered in one voice: "Oh! what a surprise." The fourth read from the book, "Quick is the course of righteousness" (The real meaning of these words is that religious rites should be undertaken quickly). He declared that this camel is righteousness incarnate and it should be yoked to one he likes best. Immediately the ass was tied to the camel's neck. This news reached the washer-man who owned the animals. The infuriated washer-man came running to give suitable punishment to our book mongers. They in their turn fled in fear and reached the banks of a river. There they saw a tree-leaf being carried by the current . (The Sanskrit word for leaf also means a boat). Then one pedant read from the book:

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

"The gliding leaf (boat) will be our succor (when we are carried by the current)." One foolish scholar jumped into the water to catch hold of the floating leaf, but was himself carried away by the quick flow. Another caught hold of his long tuft of hair but could not save him. He said.

When threatened with complete annihilation
Better sacrifice half, because by saving half
Full destruction is avoided

Without any more thought he cut off his friend's head in order to save half.

The other three walked on and reached a village exhausted and hungry. They were taken as guests, one to each home. One scholar was served with food made out of a cereal powder mixed with ghee. Now the name of this particular cereal in Sanskrit also means postponement. He remembered his bookish knowledge that procrastination leads to death. Our bumpkin refused to eat and left the house. The second one was served a long thin and spread out type of dish made from wheat. He interpreted that which was spread and thin would have only a short life span. He immediately left without a word to the astonishment of the host. The third was given a preparation that had many holes on it. He interpreted the word "holes" as quarrels that would end in calamities. He also departed without taking food. Thus ended the story of the foolish book-scholars.

The gold finder said: "You refused to listen to my advices and fell a victim to avidity and you alone are responsible for this sorry state of yours. The wheel bearer did not agree fully with his friend's view. He said: "Fate decides the lot of even an intelligent one. But if the Fates favour, even foolish will enjoy a happy life. Have you not heard?

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

"Sathabudhi (Intellect dispersed hundred ways) stands on head and Sahasrabudhi (Intellect dispersed a thousand ways) hangs on, while I, Ekabudhi (Single pointed intellect) enjoys swimming in clear waters.

The gold finder enquired: "How is that" The other said.

Tale –5 ONE POINTED INTELLIGENCE SAVES LIFE

In a pond lived two fishes named Sathabudhi and Sahasrabudhi. Then one day a frog Ekabudhi joined them as an intimate friend. The three spent their daytime conversing with each other, story telling and other activities. At sunset they jumped into the water.

Then some fishermen with nets in hand came to the bank of the pond and started to discuss the prospects fishing in the pond. They observed that the tank was shallow but rich in fish and other life. They would come next morning to cast nets. Now three friends were frightened to hear the decision of the fisher folk. Ekabudhi said: "There appears to have a great risk if we stay in this pond any longer. I feel it is better to leave this place immediately and seek refuge in other waters." Sahasrabudhi pooh-poohed the cowardice of the frog and said: "I disagree with this pessimistic view. It is foolish to leave a safe place simply because of some vain threats. I refuse to believe that the fishermen are serious. But even if they come, I will be able to save us as well as our other friends here" Sathabudhi was also against running away from a familiar place of residence in haste. The frog Ekabudhi on the other hand said that he has decided to flee from the pond along with his wife to safer places.

Next morning the fishermen cast their nets and caught Sathabudhi and Sahasrabudhi as also the other

 In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

creatures remaining in the pond. The fisher folk were happy with their rich haul. One of them hung the heavy Sathabudhi by his neck with a rope. Another carried Sahasrabudhi yoked to a rod. The frog Ekabudhi sitting on the bank of another pond said to his wife, "Sathabudhi stands on head." etc.

The gold finder said: It was wrong that you did not heed to the counsels of a well-wisher. I tried to dissuade you. But avarice and vanity in scholarship prodded you on for more precious diamonds and pearls. There is a saying

"Uncle, you sing excellently. But you did not pay heed to my objections. Your sweet voice deserves this incomparable gift of necklace."

The wheel bearer inquired: "How is that?" The gold finder replied:

Tale-6 MORTAR NECKLACE ON DONKEY'S NECK

The donkey named Uddatha (Prig) had to carry the washer-man's heavy bundle during the daytime, but was free to roam during night. It was his daily routine to encroach upon other people's field and eat his full at night. Before dawn he would return safe to his master's house. One night, as he was rambling about, he happened to befriend a jackal. The two broke through the hedge into the cucumber field of a farmer. They both relished the fruit to the full and before morning came out unharmed. This act of plunder continued day after day. One night, after a heavy meal of cucumber, the donkey said, "Oh! nephew, see how enthralling this night draped in moonlight. I am going to sing. Tell me which tune you would like to hear in my sweet voice." The fox was not enthused with this project. He said, "Hey, uncle it is not good to make noise when one is on a plundering mission. Have you not heard the dictum.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A man suffering from cough and one who is sleepy
And one who is ailing and one who has his stomach full
Should not dream of attempting robbery

Again your ear rending voice is sure to awaken the sleeping watchmen. They will come running and may kill or bind us with ropes. Let us be content with enjoying these ambrosial cucumber." To this the donkey replied, "I am sure that my sweet voice will move any lover's heart to bliss in this autumn night bathed in milky white moon light." The fox said, "I am sure your harsh voice will land you in trouble." The donkey said, "You will now enjoy my sweet voice which excels all heavenly music. I am going to sing." The fox said, "Wait a minute. I shall go and stand outside the fencing. And I shall warn you in case watchmen come. Then you are welcome to start your song." The fox did as promised. The ass began to bray loudly. The watchmen woke up irritated. Gnashing teeth with anger, they came running with sticks and beat the donkey till it fell unconscious. They tied a mortar on the donkey's neck before leaving. In a short time the ass revived itself and began to run with the mortar hanging on its neck.

Seeing the ass running with the mortar necklace, the jackal said,

"Uncle you sing excellently. But you did not pay heed to my objections. Your sweet voice deserves this mortar necklace."

The gold finder said, "I tried to dissuade you from going further. But you refused.

The wheel bearer said, "True, there is truth in the saying,

A man without wisdom will not pay attention to a friend's words just as the weaver Mantharaka." The gold finder asked, "How was that?" The wheel bearer said,

Tale 7 FOLLOW UNWISE ADVICE AND COURT DANGER

There lived Mantharaka, the weaver. One day as he was working, the wooden parts of his loom broke down. He had to procure timber for making a new frame. With an axe in hand, he went in search of a tree for this purpose. On the seashore he found a large tree standing tall. He raised the axe to cut down the tree. Now there lived on the tree a ghost who protested against this act. He said, "I am the spirit of the tree residing here enjoying sea breeze. It is my bounden duty to protect the tree." The weaver however said, "But I want timber to make wooden frame for my loom. So I am going to cut it." The ghost promised to grant him any boon he wished, for sparing the tree. The weaver said, "I shall return and seek advice from my friend and wife as to what I should ask of you."

With the consent of the spirit, the weaver took to heels to reach home quickly. At the entrance to the village he met his friend, the barber, to whom he told of his strange encounter with the spirit on the tree. "Now friend, tell me what boon shall I ask of the ghost?" The barber tendered his advice. "Comrade, you should pray for a whole kingdom wherein you will be the king and I, your chiefminister. We two will enjoy a happy life." The weaver said, "What you say is true. But let me ask my wife also for her opinion." The barber replied, "don't seek counsel from a woman who is of little wisdom". The weaver said, "but still my wife is devoted to me and I do not undertake anything without telling her."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The weaver reached his house and calling his wife, said, "My dear, today I had an interesting meeting with the spirit of a tree who has vouchsafed to grant me anything I asked for. My barber friend tells me to seek a kingdom of him" She objected saying, "My dear, barbers are fools and always give evil advice. Moreover to be a king is always troublesome. A king may have to wage war or make peace with enemies and look after his subjects. At present you have only one head and two hands to work your loom and can weave only one piece of clothe a day. This gives us only meager income. Therefore go and ask the ghost to grant you an extra head and a new pair of hands. Then you will be able to work on two looms, one in front and one in back, and make two cloth a day. Then you will be able to pay for your daily needs as well as get some extra income. We will be able to hold our heads high with more money in our pocket."

The weaver went back to the spirit on the tree and said, "In case you are pleased to grant my wish then bless me with one more head and a pair of extra hands." The moment he said this, the weaver became a two-headed and four-armed monster. Whistling a happy tune, he was returning home. But the on-lookers on the way, took this strange creature as a demon and they gathered to beat him till death.

The wheel bearer said, "A man, when he is possessed by the evil spirit of greed, becomes the object of ridicule. One who is lost in meditation about things not yet happened or which are not likely to happen will be washed white as in the case of the father of Somasharman.

The gold finder asked: "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 8 DAYDREAMING LEADS TO GRIEF

There lived a brahmin named Swabhavakripana (Miser by birth). He earned his daily bread by begging. He used to keep the rice flour left over in an earthen pot. This he hung from a hook just above his cot. Often he would lie on his bed and look at the flour filled pot. One mid day after lunch he lay on his cot and ruminated. "I have a pot full of rice flour. In times of famine I will get hundred gold coins as price for this. With this money I will buy two goats that would give birth to kids once in six months. Before long, I will be the owner of a herd of goats. These I will sell and buy cows. Then I will purchase buffaloes and mares. These will in time give birth to many calves. I will then become the proud owner of a large herd of animals. These animals shall be sold for a treasure of gold. Then one day a Brahmin from a renowned family will come to me and bestow his beautiful daughter as wife with a handsome dowry. A son will be born to me and I will name him Somasharman. When he grows up he will begin to walk on all the fours. One day as I sit on the back of the stable with a book in hand, Somasharman, on seeing me will leave his mother's lap to come to me. I find him reaching near the horse hoofs in the stable. Anxious about his safety, I call my wife by name and order her to take away the boy. Since she will be engaged in the kitchen, she will not hear my call. Angered at her disobedience, I will go to the kitchen and kick her with my foot". So thinking, in a dreamy mood he raised his legs to kick. The foot struck and broke the flour filled earthen pot. All the white powder was spilt and the poor Brahmin was bathed white.

The gold finder asked, "Ok, why do you worry over one who gets into trouble because of stinginess? Haven't you heard?

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A man engages himself in works of evil nature out of greed but he is least bothered of the fruit there off. Then he becomes the object of ridicule like king Chandra.

The wheel bearer enquired, "How was that?" the other replied.

Tale 9 GREED RENDERS ONE OBJECT OF RIDICULE

In the palace of King Chadra a group of monkeys were being reared for the amusement of the prince. These animals were provided daily with a sumptuous supply of tasty food and other comforts. For the same purpose a group of sheep were also looked after. One ram among them was very greedy for eatables cooked in the royal kitchen. It used to enter the kitchen any time it liked and was in the habit of gulping what ever it liked. The cooks used to hit him with anything at hand including firewood and cooking vessels. The old chief monkey often noticed such incidents and was apprehensive of the safety of his friends. A stream of thoughts came rushing through his fertile imagination. "Suppose one day finding nothing near to punish the ram with, the cooks might throw a live firewood at him. It is quite possible that the abundant fleece on the sheep catches fire. He may, in order to put out the blazing flame on his body jump on to the nearby stable where horses are tethered in thatched shed. The grass in the shed is then sure to catch fire and burn down the stable. The royal horses might get burns all over their bodies and some may even die. The king will seek advice from veterinary surgeons. They will surely prescribe monkey fat to be smeared on the bodiesof the horses. The king's servants will kill all my people to save valuable horses. In that case all our kind will have to to die" The old monkey chief assembled all his followers to tell them of his misgivings. He advised them all to escape to the forest immediately. The young monkeys

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

pooh-poohed the crazy fear and pessimism expressed by their old leader. They refused to budge from the palace for fear of the loss of good food and other comforts.

The old monkey chief once more warned of the bitter fruit they may have to eat for enjoying present pleasures. "I am leaving to the forest for safety since I do not like to be a witness of your tragic end.

The old leader left the palace soon after. One day when the ram entered the royal kitchen as an uninvited guest, the cook threw at him a half burnt blazing firewood. As predicted by the wise monkey, the ram ran to the nearby stable and began to roll on the grass stocked there. The dry grass caught fire that finally burnt down the thatched shed. A few horses died of burns and others broke loose to escape with serious burns all over. The king asked his animal doctors for medical advise. They prescribed smearing monkey fat on the horses to save their life. On orders from the king all the monkeys in the palace were killed in order to prepare the equine medicine.

The news of complete annihilation of his fellow monkeys on the orders of the king reached the ears of the monkey chief. He gave up even food and roamed the woods in great distress. But he was determined to avenge the death of his followers and teach the king a fitting lesson. One day feeling very thirsty, he reached the shores of a lake to drink water. He keenly looked the surroundings and observed footsteps leading to the water but none going up the lake. The intelligent monkey rightly surmised that some monster must be hiding in the midst of the lake devouring those creatures entering the waters. He procured a long hollow lotus stalk and sucked water through it without touching the lake. Then he witnessed the strange phenomenon of a demon wearing a precious pearl studded necklace rising above water.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

He said, "O clever old monkey, you did a wise thing to quench your thirst without touching the lake, for otherwise, I would have devoured you. I am very pleased with you ; ask for a boon from me that would be immediately granted." The monkey said, "O, ghost, how many can you eat at a time?" The demon answered, "Thousands and thousands of creatures once they touch the lake can be swallowed in a second. But once I come to the shore, even a fox can overcome me" The monkey said, "Then give me your pearl necklace. I have a king as my enemy on whom I intend to wreak vengeance with the help of this chain and my clever talk."

Adorning the resplendent pearl necklace, the monkey chief appeared one day on the treetops and the roofs of buildings in the city. People enjoying the sight of the old monkey jumping here and there were wondering how he came to possess the charming chain. They asked, "Oh, monkey chief where had you been all these days? Where did you pick up this necklace shining like the rising sun?" "In the midst of the forest there is a lotus lake belonging to Kubera, God of Wealth. If one takes bath in it when the sun has half risen he will come out of the water with similar necklace on him." This strange story reached king's ears. The monkey was brought before him. He asked the animal, "Oh, dear monkey, is there any truth in what I hear? Have anybody heard of a lake where such valuable necklace abounds?" "This chain on my neck is an unmistakable proof for the veracity of my story. If you wish to know the truth, send some confidant of yours with me. Then he will testify to the truth of my statement." said the monkey. "If that is so, I myself will accompany you to the lake followed by my retinue. Then I can possess many pearl necklaces," said the king. The monkey agreed.

 In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

Next day long before dawn, the royal procession to the lake started with the king and the queens seated in palanquins and the retinue followed on foot. The monkey chief occupied the pride of place on the king's knees.

Oh, Goddess Avarice, salutations to thee
Even the rich take to evil ways
To worship thy holy feet
A man having hundred wants thousand
He wants to increase to hundred thousand
A king wishes to become an emperor
The emperor covets throne in heaven,
Hair becomes gray and teeth fall
Eyes become dim, ears hear not
As age advances and death approaches
But avidity retains youthful beauty

The king's troupe reached the shore of the lake before sunrise. The monkey said, "Oh, king when sun is half risen on the eastern horizon let all your men take a dip in the lake. They will all come up adorning pearl necklaces Your lordship may come with me and I shall show you a treasure of pearl chains".

The king's men who entered the lake did not come out even after a long time. The king anxiously asked the monkey as to what happened to them. The monkey immediately jumped on to the nearby tree and perched on its top said loudly, "You devilish king, all your men have been devoured by the demon inhabiting the lake. This is my retaliation to your misdeed in killing all your pet monkeys who had put all their faith in you. I deliberately blocked you from entering the lake since you were my former master.

Fare you well, always look before you leap"

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

The gold finder said, "Friend, give me leave to go. I cannot remain here as a mute witness to this painful experience of yours with the wheel rotating on your crown. I cannot think of a way to help you in this catastrophe. When I see how your face becomes deformed under severe pain, I feel I should leave at once. Haven't you heard this?

Oh, monkey your face appears as if you are under the power of the ogre Vikala. Therefore run for the sake of your life..

The wheel bearer asked, "How is that? "The gold finder said.

Tale 10 OGRE VIKALA

The king Bhadrasena had a daughter named Ratnavathi who was a ravishing beauty. A hideous ogre had been planning to abduct her. For this purpose he came near the princess's bed unseen to human eye. But as she was adequately protected by the royal security he could not carry out his design. The princess could feel the presence of the devil near her by signs like body trembling. Then one midnight she happened to see the demon in his actual form standing in one corner of her room. In a shaky voice she said to her maid, "Friend, every day at odd times (Vikaala in Sanskrit) somebody comes to torment me. I think he is standing there now. Please think of some trick to drive him away." The ogre thought on hearing her words, "One thing is certain. There is some other called Vikala who comes daily to carry her off. I will now take the shape of a horse and stand among others in the king's stable and watch out his form and strength.

Now our ogre transmuted himself into a fine horse and took his place among the royal steeds. In the meantime a man had entered the stable for committing horse burglary. It appeared to him that the ogre horse was the best among them. He mounted on him, bridled him and whipped it to

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

take off. The ogre was now certain that his rival Vikala had identified him as his enemy and wanted to finish him off. The ogre sped away in fright. The robber finding that the horse he had mounted was not halting even after running a long way now pulled the reigns in order to stop him. But this act instead of controlling him only resulted in highly increased speed. The robber was now afraid that he was riding no ordinary horse. He wanted to escape from him by jumping on in place with plenty of dust. The ogre horse was now running near a banyan tree and the robber could catch hold to one branch on it, while the horse continued to run. Both the ogre and the robber were relieved by getting their freedom of each other.

Now a monkey that was an intimate chum of the fiend was sitting on the same tree. He called out his friend, "O comrade, don't be terrified because the one who was riding on you is only a human. He is your natural food. Come back and eat him." The robber, realizing that his life would be in danger if the ogre turned back, caught hold of the hanging tail of the monkey and started to bite and chew it. The monkey was in great pains but kept silent since he thought the burglar was mightier than the demon. He remained with eyes shut and the ogre went his way reciting the following verse.

'Hey monkey, I can figure from the expressions on your face that you have been under the power of Vikala. Therefore run for your life.

The monkey cried aloud and said, "Leave my tail, for your bite gives me pain. I shall leave this place immediately. You may remain here enjoying the banyan fruits."

The wheel bearer said, "It is not human effort but God's will that prevails. As an illustration here is a story.

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

A blind man, a hunch-back and a three-breasted princess even though each followed wrong way, attained life's goal by the work of fate.

The gold finder asked: How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 11 PRINCESS WITH THREE BREASTS

King Madusena ruled over the city of Madupura. A girl with three breasts was born to him. The king was much distressed because of this ill omen for the royal house. He instructed his chamberlain to cast her into wilderness. But the chamberlain cautioned his master against any hasty decision. He requested the king to consult wise men before arriving at a desperate move.

A wise person should be consulted and his counsels should be given due consideration. Then only wisdom will blossom like a lotus at sunrise.

A wise man should always question; that was how the brahmin escaped from the clutches of the demon.

. The king asked: "How was that? "The chamberlain replied.

Tale 12 READY WIT ESCAPES

In a forest lived a demon named Chandakarma (one engaged in cruel deeds). Once he came upon a wandering brahmin in the forest. Immediately he mounted on the man's neck and ordered that he be taken to the nearby lake. Trembling with fear, the brahmin had to acquiesce to the demon's command. While he was walking thus he noticed that the demon had very soft feet like lotus petals. Astonished at this unexpected sight, the brahmin asked the monster. "Hi, how is it that you have such soft and beautiful feet?" The demon replied that he had taken an oath never to walk on

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

earth without washing his feet. The information lighted up his thinking to find a way of freeing himself from his clutches. They reached the shores of the lake and the monster descended. He asked the brahmin to await him at the same spot till he returned after ablution and worship of his deity. The brahmin thought, "If this giant comes back after washing legs, I am finished. It is the best time to flee since the demon won't dare to break the oath in order to follow him with unwashed feet." He took to heels and thus escaped from the demon's stranglehold. It was his timely questioning that saved his life.

Tale 11 (Continued)

The king Madusena called in the brahmin scholars and sought their advice as how to make amends to overcome the sin of begetting a deformed child. They said, "A deformed birth with either less or more limbs brings ill-luck to the family. The husband of your three-breasted daughter may meet with premature death or she might become a woman of easy virtue herself. The father of such a girl should never see her. She should be given to a man willing to take her and the couple banished from the kingdom." The king gave orders to make public his decision regarding her daughter's marriage. Drum beaters were asked to go round and tom tom, 'anybody willing to wed the three-breasted princess will be given a dowry of a hundred thousand gold coins with the proviso of expulsion of the couple from the territory of the kingdom. For a long time there was no response for the king's offer. The princess was housed in a secret place where nobody would see her.

In another part of the city lived a blind man who was assisted by a hunchback. They were very poor and led a hard life. One day they heard the drumbeat and the announcement

In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

regarding the princess' marriage. Hopes of an affluent life lighted up their hearts. The blind man came forward and touched the drum indicating his willingness to accept the princess as wife. The king was informed of this promptly. The three-breasted princess along with a dowry of hundred thousand gold coins were handed over to the blind fellow. The princess, her husband and the hunchback were roved across the river to another country where they settled in a house.

The blind husband of the princess spent his time simply sitting on a cot. The humpback did most of the domestic chores. As time passed, the princess developed an infatuation for the humpback. The two decided to plot the killing of the blind fellow. She asked her lover to bring poison to be administered to her husband. The humpback brought from outside a dead cobra to be cooked and fed to the blind under the pretext of serving fish meat. The hunchback went out. The princess cut the serpent into pieces, put them in a pan and placed it over fire. She said to her husband that she was cooking fish curry that he liked most. She said, "Please dear, stir this for some time till I come back after some other duties."

The blind man was elated at the prospect of the tasty fish curry and helped himself to stir it with a spoon. Poisonous fumes from the cooking vessel rose to his face. To his great surprise, a black thin film on his eyes that clouded his vision was peeled off. He then realized that he gained eyesight. He let more poisonous fumes directly on his eyes and he got full power to his eyes. But when he looked into the cooking pan he actually saw pieces of a serpent instead of fish. His immediate reaction was to suspect his wife and the hunchback of foul play. He wanted to find out who the real culprit was and give fitting punishment. So he decided to feign blindness for some more time. Meanwhile his wife and

 In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

hunchback came into the kitchen hand in hand like lovers. The 'blind' man became furious and not finding any weapon to use against those cheats, he came rushing, held the humpback by his legs. He raised him over the head and struck with head of the hunchback hard on the chest of his three-breasted wife. The extra breast fell down because of the force of the blow and the curved body of the hunchback was straightened.

Thus even though the course of events took an ugly turn, the end came good by the sheer play of FATES. The deformities in the three characters were corrected – the princess lost her third breast, the blind gained sight and the humpback got a straight body.

The gold finder said, "It is true that good fortunes will make the end well. But if fate was against, tragedy will ensue.

A bird had one stomach and twin head. One head quarreled with the other and both had tragic ends.

The wheel bearer asked, "How was that? "The gold finder said.

Tale 13 BIRD WITH TWO HEADS

On the seashore lived a bird with one stomach and two heads. Once it was roaming in search of food. One head sighted a fruit washed to the shore by waves. "What a sweet fruit" thought he and started to eat with relish the ambrosial fruit without offering even a bit to the second mouth. The first exclaimed, "I have never in my life tasted a sweeter fruit. Is the fruit from a heavenly tree, I wonder? The other pleaded, "Give me a small piece. Let me also enjoy the dainty fruit." The first said, "What matters if it goes through my

In Public Domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

mouth or yours. It reaches our common stomach. I have only a small piece left reserved for our sweetheart." The bird went home and the first head fed a piece of fruit to their wife. She was pleased and she showered kisses on the first face. From that day the second face showed its displeasure to the first face. It wanted to take revenge.

It happened that one day the second head sighted a poisonous fruit on the shore. It picked up the fruit with the beak and said. "I have got a poisonous fruit that I am going to eat." The first head gave a timely warning. "Mate, don't eat it. Otherwise it will bring about the death of both of us." The second head didn't care to listen to the wise counsel of his twin brother and ate the poison. Why need elaborate! The bird died and with it both the heads perished.

The wheel bearer said, "Good. Now you go home but never travel alone. Haven't you heard?

Do not eat delicious food alone, when all others sleep one alone shouldn't remain awake; don't travel alone; don't enjoy the wealth alone without giving charity.

A fellow traveller, however, mean he may be, will be a helpful companion. Once a man look a crab as companion in journey and this insignificant creature saved his life."

The gold finder asked, "How was that?" The other replied.

Tale 14 HELPMATE ON JOURNEY

There lived a brahmin called Brahmadutta. Once he started on a travel to another village. His mother said, "Dear son, why do you go alone. Take a companion with you." But he said, "Why need I take another when I don't expect any danger on the way." But his mother thought otherwise. She

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

gathered a crab from a nearby pond and handed over the creature to her son. She said, "My dear, let this creature be helpmate on your journey". He placed it among camphor pieces and bundled in cloth. After walking for a long hour, he sought refuge under a tree shade from the scorching Sun. Soon he fell asleep. Meanwhile a cobra issued out of a hole on the tree and came creeping towards him. But the strong smell of camphor captivated it. The serpent pierced through the cloth bundle and started to eat camphor. The crab kept inside the bundle clawed the cobra and killed it. When the traveller woke up what he saw was the dead cobra. He remembered fondly his mother's words that one should not travel alone. If he had disobeyed her, he would have lost his life.

The concluding verse of the fifth tactics is very significant.

One should have good faith in prayer, in holy waters, in a Brahmin, in God, in astrologer, in medicine and in teacher. The more intense this faith the better would be his success in life.

The gold finder took leave of the wheel bearer and returned home.

(The fifth tactics called III - considered deed ends here. The ethical teaching named Panchatantra comes to a close)

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy

In Public domain. Digitization Muthulakshmi Research Academy



K. Eswarankutty born in the year 1929, belongs to an aristocratic family in Thrissur, Kerala, India. He took his Master Degree in Science from The Travancore University with Statistics as Major.

He was employed with government of Kerala Bureau of Economics and Statistics and worked in various capacities at Kerala Veternary College, Kerala Forest Research Institute etc., and retired from service in the year 1984 as Additional Director.

Malayalam translation of Geethaanjali by Rebindranath Tagore & Malayalam translation of Seven plays by Rabindranath Tagore are a few of the publication to his credit.

SANSKRIT ACADEMY
Adarsha Shodha Sanstha
(Recognised by Central Sanskrit University)
Osmania University, Hyderabad - 500 007

₹ 300/-

ISBN - 978-93-80171-52-4